



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

It was an honor to represent the Notre Dame Academy community last Friday at the National Blue Ribbon Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C. along with Mrs. Grayson and Mr. and Mrs. Greife. It quickly became apparent to me what a major accomplishment this is and how much everyone at NDA has contributed to us receiving the award. I wish we could have invited our entire school community to the stage to receive this distinguished award. There are far too few ways that teachers and students get recognized for the hard work and success that takes place in the classroom each day.

So how did we qualify for this national recognition? What are the attributes of the NDA education that make us stand out among the nearly 27,000 public high schools and approximately 3000 Private high schools in the United States? We had to first meet minimum benchmarks in student performance in order to apply. In 2018 we exceeded the minimum required ACT test score of a 24.8 in reading and a 23.8 in math. Once that hurdle was overcome, we were able to submit an application. As a private school, our application went to the Council of American Private Education. This organization, CAPE, screened all private elementary and secondary school applications and we were 1 of 50 schools recommended by CAPE to the Department of Education. We were 1 of 362 schools to receive the 2019 Blue Ribbon Award of Distinction last Friday and 1 of only 11 schools to receive this award for the 3rd time. #3Peat

I wanted to share an excerpt from the summary portion of our application. It is a little glimpse of what we experience each day, but it is now shared with schools across the country.

At Notre Dame Academy we are committed to a holistic education that develops young women to be confident lifelong learners who are excited about using their God given gifts to make a difference in our world. Our dedicated faculty and staff are focused on meaningful learning that prepares our students for success after high school. Whether in the science lab, the band room, the basketball court, the theater, or an agency in the community, our students have a multitude of opportunities to learn and grow.

As an educator of 31 years, sharing in this award is one of the highlights of my career. We are blessed by our good God to be supported by the Sisters of Notre Dame, the Diocese of Covington, our parents, alumnae, board and community. When these pieces come together great things can happen and I believe this is why we have been named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence three times.

Thank you for partnering with us in your daughter's Catholic education and Happy Thanksgiving!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



PLEASE NOTE:

There will be NO Panda Press Weekly next week due to the holiday.

Happy Thanksgiving
from NDA!





From the President's Desk

Dear Parents,

This award is not possible without the commitment and dedication of our hardworking administration, faculty, staff and students of NDA!

Sr. Mary Ethel Parrott and I had the honor of accepting this award for our school in 2012. It is a joy to see Mr. VonHandorf, Mrs Grayson and Mr. and Mrs. Greife accepting this award just a few years later. We certainly have much to be grateful for at NDA! That includes you - the parents of NDA!

Thank you for all you do to send your daughter to our school - the only all girls school in Northern Kentucky. We appreciate your support of our heritage and tradition of excellence as a Catholic school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

May you know God's goodness and provident care,

Dr. Laura Koehl

Dr. Laura Dickman Koehl '75



NDA CELEBRATES THIRD BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD ◀

For the third time in the school's history, Notre Dame Academy has been named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and earlier this week we celebrated this tremendous accomplishment. To read more about the celebration and see pictures from the event [CLICK HERE](#).



ATTENTION FRESHMEN PARENTS: SILVER BELLS HELP NEEDED! ◀

Sophomores through seniors are invited to attend the annual Silver Bells Dance on Saturday, December 14 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. To assist with clean up, we ask for the help of freshmen parents to clean up immediately after the dance. This takes the responsibility off of the sophomore class who hosts the event.

We are looking for 10 freshmen parents to help clean up after the dance which is held at Notre Dame Academy. Clean up would begin at 11:00 p.m. and should take no longer than one hour. We appreciate your help! [CLICK HERE](#) to volunteer!

MIDTERM EXAMS ◀

Midterm exams will take place the middle of December before the Christmas break, and Mrs. Monohan will share the exam schedule with students by the end of this week. Please see the school's policy below as it relates to exams and exam exemption for Seniors.

Examinations

An exam is intended to be a learning experience in synthesizing, reviewing, and selecting important information. All students are required to take midterm exams in every subject. Seniors can qualify for exemption from the final exam in any course if the teacher offers exemption. A student taking a full credit senior level course, who has a passing grade for three quarters and a 92% or above average for the fourth quarter, may be exempt from their final exams. To be exempt for a half credit senior level course final exam, a student must have an 83% or higher in the first quarter of the class and a 92% or above in the second quarter to be exempt from the exam if the teacher offers exemptions. Exemption is granted to students who maintain the required average and who have not exceeded 5 unexcused absences in a semester. Exceptions apply to those students who have a documented chronic illness. Documentation of illness and absences must be submitted to school within two weeks of qualifying diagnosis or absence.

Exams are given on assigned days. To take an exam on a day other than the one assigned requires a \$25.00 fee to be paid to the school office. The exam is given at the convenience of the teacher. The fee applies even if the student has missed the exam because of illness.

Final exams constitute 1/4 of the fourth quarter grade. Midterm exams may be weighted differently by the teacher but may not constitute more than 1/4 of the second quarter grade.



THANK YOU PANDAS! ◀

NDA's LIFE Club helped out with a very special annual project for St. Elizabeth Hospice this week. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the letter of gratitude NDA received after the project was completed and see a few pictures sent to us by St. Elizabeth Hospice.



BAMBOOTIQUE HOLIDAY SHOPPING HOURS ◀

Don't forget to stop by our Bambootique Spiritwear Shop to shop for your favorite Pandas! You can find our holiday shopping hours [HERE](#).



MAKE A DIFFERENCE CANNING THE CRU! ◀

This is our last week to collect canned foods to donate to St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who has already generously donated to this important cause! We only have a couple of days left to get those non-perishable food items turned in. Please consider donating to this year's canned food drive to feed the less fortunate of our community this winter! As you know, this is a three week friendly food drive competition against St. Henry and we're hoping to repeat as the winners! The losing school will cheer for the winning school as they come into school one morning.



FRESHMAN WINTER WONDERLAND DANCE ◀

Freshman Winter Wonderland Dance is on Friday, December 6 from 8:00-11:00 p.m. at NDA. Students may attend stag or they may bring a date (can be from any school.) Tickets are \$12 per person and must be purchased online [HERE](#). Students must arrive by 8:30 p.m. and must stay until 10:45 p.m. Contact Mrs. Hildreth with questions.



2019 SILVER BELLS INFORMATION ◀

This year's Silver Bells Dance for sophomores through seniors is on Saturday, December 14, 2019. Doors will open at 8:00 p.m., and all students must arrive by 9:00 p.m. The dance ends at 11:00 p.m. The theme for this year's Silver Bells Dance is Winter Wonderland: Silver and White. Thank you to the Class of 2022 for coordinating the event alongside Ms. Madeline Tucker.

Ticket sales for the annual Silver Bells Dance will begin Monday, November 25 and can be purchased via card or check made payable to Notre Dame Academy. Tickets are \$12 per person and is open to sophomores through seniors and their guests (if applicable).



MOTHER DAUGHTER DANCE ◀

A giant Thank You to Mary Kay Laird and her amazing group of parents who planned this year's Mother Daughter Dance. It was an awesome night of Rock and Roll! Moms and daughters can download their pics from the event [HERE](#).



PANDA ALUMNAE SHARE STORIES ◀

Special thanks to NDA alumna Lisa Wintersheimer who recently came to Notre Dame Academy to talk with our Women in America class about being a partner at KMK Law in Cincinnati!

Thanks also to Traci Punch-Alexander who also came back to her alma mater earlier this week to speak with our Women in America class about her entrepreneurship journey with her business, Bunches of Bows!

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

COUPON BOOK SPREADSHEET AND UPLOAD ◀

Please use the below tally spreadsheet to track your coupon book payments. Use the spreadsheet upload to submit your completed spreadsheet to the athletic department for review. You can only submit an excel or sheets, you cannot submit a screen shot image or anything from notability. When you upload your completed tally spreadsheet, please turn all money into the front office in an envelope with the student's name, homeroom and labeled coupon books on it. All money is due by December 11.

[Coupon Book Tally Spreadsheet](#)

[Coupon Book Tally Spreadsheet Upload](#)



CONGRATULATIONS AQUA PANDAS! ◀

Congratulations to the swim and dive team for getting 2nd place at the Scott Invitational last weekend! Nice job, Aqua Pandas!



MESSAGE FROM THE CAFETERIA MANAGER ◀

Parents, please check lunch your daughter's account balance and take care of any low or negative balances as soon as possible. Contact Karen Brungs at brungsk@ndapandas.org with any questions.



COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- The Vaping Epidemic in NKY: Facts and Solutions (FREE TO NDA)
- GO Pantry-Christmas GO Box food drive: Please sign up
- Thanksgiving Day 5K

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀



KEEP
CALM
NDA COUNSELORS
CAN
HELP



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

RECENT COUNSELING EVENTS ◀

Freshmen Introduction to Naviance

On Friday November 15 and Monday November 18, freshmen were introduced to Naviance, our career and college planning tool, by Mrs. Monohan, Mrs. Maggard and Mrs. Hildreth. They were shown how to log in as well as how to add items to the resume feature. Students can access Naviance at any time to explore potential careers, add items to their resume, and set and track personal goals.

Freshmen Exam Prep Session

On Monday November 25 freshmen will attend an exam prep session with Mrs. Monohan and Ms. Ericson, our intervention specialist. They will review the exam schedule and be given tips for how to be successful on their exams.

Junior College Planning

Starting on Monday November 25 and continuing on Mondays and Fridays during homeroom time, Ms. Burgei will begin to speak with Junior Homerooms, one at a time, regarding college planning. She will focus on what a transcript is, how to access your transcript and what GPA you need to get into college.

Congratulations to the students who won the BEST Award for Quarter 1 ◀

This is an award voted on by teachers to recognize students that are giving 100% effort in their work. The following were the winners:

Freshman: Ellie Greenwell

Sophomore: Caitlin Neeley

Junior: Kirsten Spillman

Senior: Nina Simkonis

Thomas More Institute for Learning Differences Presentation ◀

The Institute for Learning Differences at Thomas More University is a growing program which provides additional support to students with documented learning differences who have the potential to succeed in college. They are hosting an informational session about the transition into college when a student has a learning disability on:

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, 6:30 PM

Science Lecture Hall

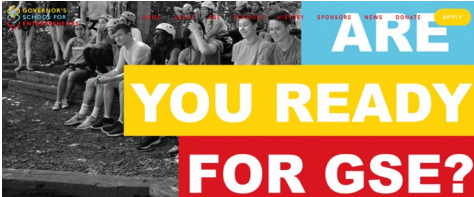
For more info visit: <https://www.thomasmore.edu/ild/>



TAPMD AND TAP HC CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAMS ◀

Juniors that are interested in a career in medicine should find out more information about the Tap MD and Tap HC programs. The Health Collaborative sponsors these programs and both are programs that require an application process. Below I have pasted a link for information about applying to these great programs. If accepted, the student would attend monthly sessions at local hospitals to learn more about being a Physician or other health care worker.

<https://taphealth.healthcollab.org/>



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR ENTREPRENEURS (GSE) ◀

The Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE), a residential summer program where 72 Kentucky teens focus on product innovation and business model design, has opened applications for its summer 2020 program. The 2020 GSE session will take place June 7-27, 2020 at Northern Kentucky University. Students currently in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade can apply at www.KentuckyGSE.com. Applications are due January 20, 2020.



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS (GSA) ◀

The Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) applications are now open for its 2020 class. The tuition-free program, a three-week residential immersive arts education experience will take place on the campus of the University of Kentucky. Rising student artists engage in studies across nine art disciplines: Architecture, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, film, Instrumental Music, Musical Theatre, Visual Art, and vocal Music. Applications are due January 10.



GREEN DOT BYSTANDER TRAINING ◀

Twenty Notre Dame Academy students attended a Green Dot Bystander Training on November 13. They learned effective strategies to use their words and actions to stop people from being harmed, and prevent incidences of bullying, dating violence, and sexual assault: through Direct Intervention, Delegation, or Distraction.



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR NDA PARENT TOOLBOX? ◀

Check out the NDA [Parent Toolbox](#). Timely topics include lying, emotional storms, stress, and so much more!



HELP WANTED ◀

Database Specialist

Notre Dame Academy's Advancement Department is searching for a part-time Database Specialist to provide clerical expertise and to maintain the Notre Dame Academy community database. This position will assist in data entry, mailings, filing and other general office duties. Raiser's Edge experience preferred. Please submit a cover letter, resume and references to ndahr@ndapandas.org.



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▶ Important dates

November	22	Panda Funfest for Prospective 8th Graders
	26	Thanksgiving Prayer Service
	27	Class of 2019 Welcome Back Night
	27-29	No School: Thanksgiving Break
December	4	Sophomore Retreat
	5	Alumnae Wreath and Wine Night
	6	No School: Thank You Bishop Foys! Freshmen Semi Formal Dance
	9	No School: Immaculate Conception
	10	Christmas Choral Concert
	13	In School Band and Choral Concert
	14	ACT and HSPT at NDA Silver Bells Dance
	15	Band Concert
	17	Advent Prayer Service
	18-20	Exams
	21	Christmas break begins
January	6	Students return to school after Christmas break