



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Dear Parents,

Never could any of us have imagined what we witnessed taking place at our nation's Capitol this afternoon. Such political upheaval in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic is unsettling for us and even more unnerving for our students. Dr. Koehl opened our faculty and staff meeting this morning with words of gratitude for our faculty and staff and with a "Prayer of Hope for the New Year" which you can find on the following page. Through our gratitude we find an affirmation of goodness and as people of faith, we turn to God in prayer for hope and strength. I encourage you to take a moment this evening to pray this "Prayer of Hope for the New Year" with your family and talk about the blessings from God for which you are grateful. At NDA we will continue to foster an environment that best supports our students during this challenging time and focus on *Uniting Humankind as reflections of God's love*.

I would also ask that you keep NDA senior Ceceilagh Pitstick and her family in your prayers. Ceceilagh's father, Mr. Chris Pitstick, passed away suddenly this weekend. The Pitstick family has generously named Notre Dame Academy as one of the recipients for memorial donations. You can find more information regarding Mr. Pitstick's funeral and how to make a memorial donation below. Please keep Ceceilagh and her family in your prayers and may perpetual light shine upon Mr. Pitstick.

I am happy to report that we have had a smooth transition back to Plan 1 of our *Pandas Return to Campus Plan* with a full return to school with safety precautions in place. As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve with rising positivity rates, we will continue to be flexible and prepared to pivot to one of our other plans should it be necessary. Our students and faculty have done an incredible job this school year and we certainly appreciate their adaptability. Please encourage your daughter to follow COVID-19 mitigation strategies in order that we can continue have in person instruction.

Also, please note the travel advisory information from our school nurse on page 3. We know that travel increases your chances of getting and spreading COVID-19 and that staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. **All travel is highly discouraged this school year. We understand that some families may be considering travel during spring break however, travel at that time may jeopardize our ability to stay on Plan 1.** You can find information regarding mandatory quarantine following travel on page 3 as well.

Please be assured that the spiritual, academic, emotional and physical wellbeing of your daughter is at the heart of every decision we make at NDA. We thank you for your continued support and wish you a very healthy and happy new year.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



A PRAYER OF HOPEfor the New Year

God of hope,
help me to live joyfully in the imperfect world,
The world of good, the bad and the ambiguous.
May I live in this real world with enthusiasm,
and not become disheartened
by some of the negative things I see and experience.
May I daily choose to have hope because I have a vision
that goes beyond the immediate or the readily visible.
May I bet with my whole life
that a better world is not only possible,
she is on her way.
Give me the quiet grace to hear her breathing.
Amen

Melannie Svoboda, SND



FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL INFORMATION FOR MR. CHRIS PITSTICK ◀

Memorials can be mailed to Notre Dame Academy or made online [HERE](#) by choosing the Memorial Designation and listing Chris Pitstick Memorial in the comment box. All donations will be equally distributed between Notre Dame Academy and Covington Catholic High School per the family's request.

In addition, the Mass will be a private ceremony for immediate family only but will be live-streamed via the St. Joseph Crescent Springs Church Facebook page on January 8, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.

NDA COVID-19 INFORMATION

Learn More >>

NDA COVID-19 INFORMATION ◀

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

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, RN. 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.**
- **TRAVEL ADVISORY INFORMATION:** We know that travel increases your chances of getting and spreading COVID-19 and that staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Therefore, **ALL TRAVEL IS HIGHLY DISCOURAGED FOR NDA STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.** If you are planning to travel **ANYTIME** (including spring break), please note that:
 - All travel must be reported to our school nurse, Tina Sizemore, RN. at 859.292.1843 or sizemoret@ndapandas.org prior to your trip.
 - International travel will require a 14 day quarantine.
 - Domestic travel that meets any of the following criteria will require a mandatory 10 day quarantine:
 - Travel via public transportation such as plane or bus
 - Travel outside of the Greater Cincinnati Area

FROM THE
SCHOOL
NURSE



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, January 6, we have had 11 reported cases of a member of our community testing positive for COVID-19 since we last reported positive cases on December 16. As per our requirements, those involved followed the quarantine guidelines in our [COVID-19 Response Chart](#). We also have several members of our NDA community who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for in quarantine. Please note that 15% of those have chosen remote learning this semester and 41% of those are in quarantine due to travel.

We have consulted with the Diocese of Covington about these recent cases and 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, RN., at 859.292.1843 or sizemoret@ndapandas.org.



PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE TO THE REGULAR SCHEDULE: ◀

Panda Prime Time and Homeroom have been moved to the end of the school day. If not required to meet with a teacher or to seek support in classes, students are encouraged to dismiss after 7th period on a Panda Prime Time Day (which ends at 2:29 p.m. with prayer and announcements). The first Panda Prime Time will take place tomorrow, Thursday, January 7, so students who are not required to meet with a teacher or to seek support in classes will dismiss at 2:29 p.m. Here is a look at the new schedule for Plan 1 of our *Pandas Return to Campus Plan*.

Regular Schedule (R) M, F
 (45 minute classes, 25 minute lunches,
 7 minute transitions)

8:00 - 8:45	1st Class
8:52 - 9:37	2nd Class
9:44 - 10:29	3rd Class
10:36 - 11:01	First Lunch
11:08 - 11:53	4th Class
10:36 - 11:21	4th Class
11:28 - 11:53	Second Lunch
12:00 - 12:45	5th Class
12:52 - 1:37	6th Class
1:44 - 2:29	7th Class (Prayer, Announcements)
2:35 - 3:01	Homeroom

Regular Schedule (R) T, TH
 (45 minute classes, 25 minute lunches,
 7 minute transitions)

8:00 - 8:45	1st Class
8:52 - 9:37	2nd Class
9:44 - 10:29	3rd Class
10:36 - 11:01	First Lunch
11:08 - 11:53	4th Class
10:36 - 11:21	4th Class
11:28 - 11:53	Second Lunch
12:00 - 12:45	5th Class
12:52 - 1:37	6th Class
1:44 - 2:29	7th Class (Prayer, Announcements)
2:35 - 3:01	PPT

Delayed Schedule (D) W
 (40 minute classes, 25 minute lunches,
 7 minute transitions)

9:00 - 9:40	1st Class
9:47 - 10:27	2nd Class
10:34 - 11:14	3rd Class
11:21 - 11:46	First Lunch
11:53 - 12:33	4th Class
11:21 - 12:01	4th Class
12:08 - 12:33	Lunch
12:40 - 1:20	5th Class
1:27 - 2:07	6th Class
2:14 - 3:01	7th Class (extra time for staggered dismissal)



ORDER LUNCH FOR NEXT WEEK ◀

Click [HERE](#) for the lunch order form for next week.

This form serves as a head count for our cafeteria staff. Please indicate which day you would like to purchase lunch next week. Check all that apply. Payment will be due upon pick up in the cafeteria and using your ID card barcode and will be charged to your NDA lunch account through [PayPams](#). Orders are due by 3:00 p.m. each Friday. **Orders for next week are due by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8.**



MAKING A DIFFERENCE ◀

NDA freshman Madelyn Armbruster and her brother Matthew (a junior at CCH) have been making a positive difference in our community throughout the COVID-19 global pandemic. They started a service project called "Spreading Good Vibes" and have raised over \$1900. They have used the money to spread happiness to those less fortunate. They have provided meals, blankets, gloves, mittens, hats, hygiene bags, \$750 in cash and sleeping bags. [Here is a link](#) to their Facebook page. We are very proud of Madelyn and her brother for living the mission of Notre Dame Academy during this challenging time!

Campus Ministry

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS ◀

Campus Ministry: We continue to pray a decade of the rosary every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 7:40 a.m. in the chapel. All students and faculty/staff members are welcome to join us.

Attention Senior Parents:

A reminder that the parent letters for the senior class retreat are due on **Friday, January 8, 2021**. An email was sent out in December with details for this project. [Here](#) is a link to that email. Please make sure that your daughter's first and last name are on the outside of the envelope so that we can make sure it makes it to your daughter. Thank you for your help with this activity. More information about the senior retreat will be shared with your daughter when we return to school. If you have any questions or concerns please email Mrs. Price at priceb@ndapandas.org.



BAMBOOTIQUE NEWS ◀

the NDA Fuzzy Fleece is on sale for \$30.00 (regular price \$50.00) this week in the Bambootique. There are only a few left so Mrs. McLoud says, "Get'm while you can." Don't miss the deals at NDA's [online Bambootique!](#)

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION FOR INCOMING STUDENTS ◀

Notre Dame Academy
Freshman
Priority Application
Period

HSPT
High School
Placement Test
REGISTRATION

HSPT
HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST
RESULTS MEETING

Priority Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year Begins This Week

If you have a daughter who is interested in applying as an incoming freshman for the 2021-22 school year, you may do so online with our Application for Admission on the website [HERE](#). The non-refundable registration fee must be paid online with a credit card in order to complete the Application for Admission.

Students who apply for admission during the Priority Application Period have a better chance of receiving seats in high-demand classes such as Art I and some foreign language classes. Students who apply during this period are included in a drawing for a free iPad or a \$500 tuition voucher. Incoming freshmen who are eligible for academic scholarships must apply for admission by the priority deadline in order to confirm receipt of their scholarship.

High School Placement Test

There is still time to take the High School Placement Test at Notre Dame Academy! 8th grade girls who are interested in NDA and have not yet taken the High School Placement Test should contact Katie Caccavari, NDA Director of Admissions, to register to take the test on Saturday, January 9. Katie can be reached by phone or email, 859-292-1829/caccavarik@ndapandas.org.

High School Placement Test Results Meeting Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

If your daughter took the High School Placement Test (HSPT) at NDA on December 12, please plan to attend the HSPT Results Meeting on Monday, January 11, from 7 - 8 p.m. at NDA. Students and one parent should attend this meeting. We are asking families to limit attendance to the 8th grade student(s) and one parent in order to maintain social distancing. Placement test results will be distributed and explained, and scholarship recipients (based on these scores) will be announced.

Prospective Pandas can learn more about The Notre Dame Life via our virtual Open House. Go to <https://www.ndapandas.org/> to access the link to our 2020 Open House Experience.

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

ATHLETIC
DEPARTMENT
NEWS

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

ANNUAL ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER

This is a reminder that money for the coupon book fundraiser is **due this Friday January 8!**

Please make sure that you fill out your [tally sheet](#) (it MUST be an Excel or Google Form, no Notability) and then [upload](#) it prior to turning your money in on Friday.

We will be collecting money Friday morning before school at 7:30 a.m. and after school Friday in the gym. Please bring your money in an envelope with your name on it and labeled coupon book money.

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀



COLLEGE INFO FOR JUNIORS & JUNIOR PARENTS! ◀

College is often on the brain for juniors at this time of year. Ms. Burgei put together some "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" about college admission for juniors and junior parents.

ACT BOOTCAMP FOR MARCH 2ND ACT TEST ◀

Torchprep will be offering their prep class to get ready for the in school ACT on March 2 starting on January 25 at Covington Catholic. The juniors at NDA will be taking the ACT in school on that March 2, 2021 day and this class is in preparation for that test. For More details click here: [TorchPrep - ACT Test Prep @ Cov Cath](#)



COLLEGE PLANNING MEETINGS

COLLEGE PLANNING MEETINGS ◀

NDA Counselors will be having their annual College Planning Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday February 9 for the current juniors class and Thursday, February 11 for the freshmen and sophomores. We will be holding this event virtually this year. We will be addressing the scheduling process, standardized testing and steps your student should be taking for college at this meeting. If you would like to attend one of the meetings please sign up below on the appropriate link. We will send out a reminder and provide a Google meet link to those who have signed up. We will also email out the slides to parents after the meeting if you are not able to attend virtually.

Sign Up for Junior College Planning Meeting February 9 at 6:30 p.m.: [Click here to register](#)

Sign up for Freshmen and Sophomore College Planning Meeting on February 11 at 6:30 p.m.: [Click here to register](#)

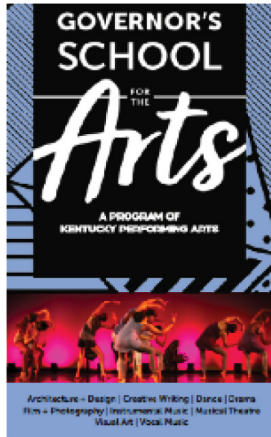


SCHOLARSHIP WINNER FOR "I HAVE WINGS FOUNDATION" ◀

Each year Notre Dame Academy and St. Henry High School have a charity volleyball game in order to support the "I Have Wings Foundation." This year the volleyball game had to be canceled due to COVID-19. We usually honor a student who has had a family affected by cancer and the "I Have Wings Foundation" gives the student a \$1000 scholarship. This year NDA nominated Claire Edgington for this scholarship. Claire was chosen for this scholarship and we want to recognize her and her family for this award. Congratulations Claire!

GRIEF SUPPORT ◀

Grief Support Groups will be offered for NDA students who have experienced the death of a loved one. Fernside, a nationally acclaimed grief center for children will be conducting these virtual support group sessions in conjunction with NDA. We will begin January 20 and go for 6 weeks. There are forms that need to be completed and returned by Jan. 13. Contact Mrs. Hildreth to receive the forms hildrethk@ndapandas.org you think your daughter would benefit from this support.



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS (GSA) ◀

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

Architecture	Creative Writing	Musical Theater
Visual Art	Instrumental Music	Drama
Film & Photography	Vocal Music	Dance

January 10, 2021 - GSA 20210 Application due by 11:59 p.m.

Applicants are encouraged to upload their applications before this date. GSA offices will not be staffed over the weekend and we will not be accessible to answer questions after January 8.

FEBRUARY 19: GSA 2021 Finalists Announced

All applicants will be notified of whether they have advanced to the final round of adjudication.

MARCH 19 & 20: Final Round of Auditions and Reviews

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR ENTREPRENEURS (GSE) APPLICATIONS OPEN AND DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021 ◀

Click to [Learn more and apply to GSE](#), which will take place on the campus of Northern KY University June 6-26, 2021. Current 9th, 10th, and 11th-grade students can apply.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS ◀

NDA [Parent Toolbox](#)

Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead

Brene Brown explains how vulnerability is both the core of difficult emotions like fear, grief, and disappointment, and the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, empathy, innovation, and creativity.

1N5 is a local mental health nonprofit working to engage our local community. They provide a variety of a multitude of FREE opportunities to promote mental wellness and have meaningful impact. Upcoming 1N5 events:

- Imperfection Event this Sunday:
Fill out [THIS LINK](#) to receive the Zoom link
- [Managing Grief and Loss](#)
- [Articles](#) to help all of us understand, adapt, address and cope with our mental health concerns during this time





ORIENTAL WOK

Oriental Wok is 43! In 1977, we opened our little restaurant with big dreams. Our story is about sacrifice, a cultural revolution and the American Dream. Through our immigrant journey, we embraced our new country and America welcomed our entrepreneurial spirit. We shared our Chinese culture through Oriental Wok, one meal at a time. 43 years later my entire family is still honored to welcome you with genuine hospitality. Thank you for celebrating all the big and small occasions with us for four decades!

Mike and Helen Wong Susanna, Angela, Guy and Travis and grandchildren

Alumnae Storyboard

ALUMNAE STORYBOARD ◀

The Alumnae Storyboard is a feature which captures the everyday happenings of our alumnae. Each story is posted in the main hallway just outside the cafeteria so that you can see how our alumnae are truly continuing to make a difference in the world. The Storyboard serves as a source of inspiration and motivation just for you! You can access the Alumnae Storyboard [HERE](#).



COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- Part-time job opportunity
- 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

January 6	All students return to campus
January 8	New Year's Mass
January 9	HSPT Make-Up at NDA
January 18	No School - MLK
January 21	Senior retreats begin
February 1	Catholic schools week begins
	CSW Mass and Nunday Monday
February 5	Talent show