



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

Happy New Year! It's been an exciting week at Notre Dame Academy. We began on Monday with a presentation to our students by Dr. Koehl about an important announcement from our sponsors, the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND), regarding the future care of the sisters, plans for a new SND eldercare facility at St. Charles Community, and a reconfiguration of the St. Joseph Heights property. This announcement comes as the Sisters of Notre Dame prepare for the launch of the restructuring of their four U.S. provinces into one "SND-USA" in 2020.

To help the students better understand the significance of the SND announcement and NDA's ongoing partnership with the Sisters of Notre Dame, Dr. Koehl began her presentation with a video about the heritage of the SNDs at Notre Dame Academy which you can find [HERE](#). As the video says, "Inspired by the spirit of St. Julie Billiart proclaiming God's goodness and provident care, the Sisters of Notre Dame of Covington, Kentucky, began sponsoring Notre Dame Academy in 1906." The sisters were empowered by Mary's witness and said "yes" to God's calling to serve when they established Notre Dame Academy. Well over 100 years ago, the Sisters of Notre Dame were *Becoming Fully Alive Through Education and Love*. We continue to follow the example of the sisters today and are forever grateful for all they have done and continue to do for us at NDA. Their dedication to providing excellence in Catholic education to the young women of the Greater Cincinnati area at Notre Dame Academy has been a blessing to over 10,000 graduates over the years! You should have received a letter from Dr. Koehl via email about this announcement. In case you missed the email, I have included Dr. Koehl's letter on the following page. If you have any questions about the announcement, please feel free to contact Dr. Koehl or me.

In December, 149 future Pandas took the High School Placement Test (HSPT) at NDA and Monday evening we invited them back to review their test scores. The Class of 2023 is a very talented group of young women! At the meeting, NDA offered \$48,500 in academic scholarships to 24 of these incoming freshmen (representing 8 local grade schools) based on their outstanding performance on the HSPT. We congratulate these students and look forward to welcoming them to NDA in the fall. If you know a young woman who is ready to make a difference in the world, our Freshman Priority Application Period for the 2019-20 school year is from January 7 - February 15. Potential Pandas can learn more about all that NDA has to offer by calling our Director of Admissions, Katie Caccavari, at 859.292.1829.

Exams will be next week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Students are dismissed for the day at the end of their last exam on each of those days. Please make sure your daughter gets plenty of rest and eats a good breakfast on exam days. More information about exams can be found in the announcements below.

We are blessed to be a school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame. We look forward to our ongoing collaboration and partnership with the sisters. Please keep them in your prayers as they make changes to their living arrangements and leadership structure.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf

Notre Dame Academy
is built on the
Four Educational Principles
of the Sisters of Notre Dame:



- The centrality of a good and provident God
- The human dignity of each person as an image of God
- The Notre Dame educator as a Gospel witness
- An integrated education for transformation



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

January 7, 2019

Dear Alumnae, Parents and Friends,

Our sponsors, the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND) of Covington, KY, recently announced some exciting news regarding the future care of the sisters, plans for a new SND eldercare facility at St. Charles Community, and a reconfiguration of the St. Joseph Heights property. This announcement comes as the Sisters of Notre Dame prepare for the launch of the restructuring of their four U.S. provinces into one "SND-USA" in 2020. The Sisters of Notre Dame have served our community in the ministries of education, healthcare, and social justice since 1874. While they are planning many internal changes and personal transitions, the Sisters of Notre Dame remain focused on their mission, ministry, and quality care for the sisters.

This recent announcement by the SNDs and the eventual launch of SND-USA does not impact our sponsorship by the sisters in any way. Notre Dame Academy remains a school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame and recognized as such as part of the Covington Diocesan system of schools. We are blessed with a rich heritage rooted in the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame and NDA's tradition of excellence in education will continue for years to come.

The announcement does create some exciting new possibilities for the growth of our campus. The SNDs have been through many studies in the course of determining what comes next for St. Joseph Heights, which currently provides residences, assisted care living, and administrative offices for the Covington sisters. A task force has been formed with NDA Board member Sister Mary Judine Lambert, as the SND representative, to explore the feasibility of NDA taking on the management of the current provincial center. The new SND-USA province would lease office space and some housing space for sisters who would not require extensive services. Members of the task force will soon visit the property to evaluate how NDA would eventually integrate the building as a campus facility and how it could be funded.

The forward-thinking SNDs began entrusting the administrative components of their ministries to laity in 2008 with the adoption of a governing Board of Directors and the President/Principal model at Notre Dame Academy. In 2010, their strategic plan continued when I was named the first lay principal of Notre Dame Academy and in 2014 when I became the first lay president. Today Mr. Jack VonHandorf and I are honored to carry on the work of the sisters as lay principal and president, leading Notre Dame Academy in the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Our collaboration with our SND sponsors is focused on our SND heritage and prepares the way for future generations of SND educators and administrators at NDA.

The NDA community is forever grateful to the Sisters of Notre Dame and all they have done to make Notre Dame Academy a premier Catholic high school, providing excellent academic and co-curricular programs that prepare graduates to be outstanding female leaders serving our world. We are blessed to be a school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame and look forward to our continued partnership.

You can read more about the SND announcement and the launch of SND-USA at www.sndky.org. I ask that you keep Sr. Mary Ethel and her leadership and administrative teams in your prayers throughout this transitional period for the sisters.

May you know God's goodness each day,

Dr. Laura Koehl '75
President

EXAMS

Exams will take place next week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

You can find the exam schedule and NDA's Examination Policy [HERE](#).

Please remember to:

- Check with your teachers for the first period exams to see if you need to report at 7:30 or 8:00 a.m.
- You need to be prompt to your exams. There is a \$25 fee for a missed exam. Please refer to the NDA [Student Parent Handbook](#) for information on this policy.
- If you have a study hall/CST service block that is scheduled last on this exam schedule, you may leave for the day. If you have one scheduled 1st, you may come in late in time for homeroom
- Exams will count for up to 25% of your 2nd quarter grade
- Eat a good breakfast and get plenty of rest for your exams
- Please use your longer homeroom times to clean items out of your locker

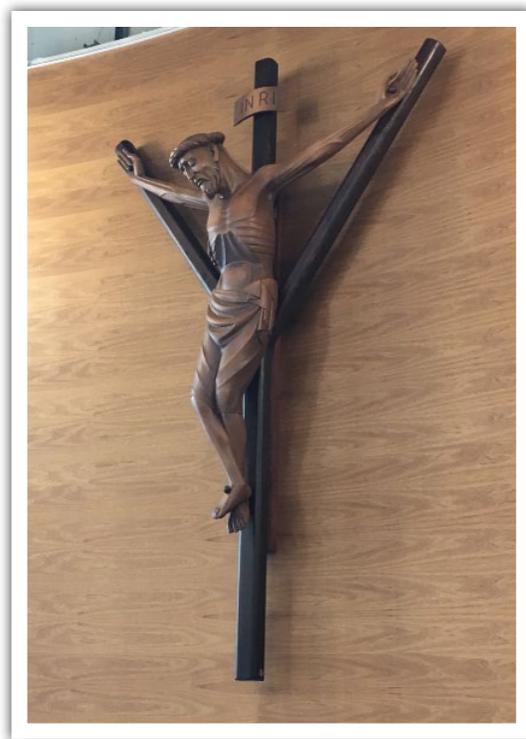
HONORING THE HERITAGE OF OUR FOUNDING SISTERS ◀

Today was a monumental day at Notre Dame Academy as our new Coesfeld Cross was hung in our nearly completed chapel.

The Sisters of Notre Dame originated in Coesfeld, Germany. This particular style of crucifix, was prevalent throughout churches and homes in Coesfeld in the 14th century and is found in the church of St. Lambert in Coesfeld. St. Lambert's is the parish church where Hilligonde Wolbring and Elisabeth Kuhling prayed and made the decisions leading to the founding of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Thus the Coesfeld Cross is very significant in the history of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

The forked cross is a "tree of life" showing God taking on our great human suffering. The hands of Christ are turned in the position of a blessing. This crucifix represented the love of God for people who had suffered much.

In seeing the cross, Dr. Koehl commented, "This feels like such a milestone for sure as it is so connected to our heritage - and in this space that is the very heart of our school."



WELCOME TO THE PANDA FAMILY! ◀

Congratulations to NDA Religion teacher Theresa Van Auken and her family on their new addition! Mrs. Van Auken had a beautiful baby girl on December 20. She was 7 pounds 1 oz. and 19.25 inches long. Mother and new baby Felicity are doing well. What a wonderful Christmas blessing! Please keep them in your prayers.

Also, welcome back to former NDA faculty member, Mrs. Linda Bricking who will be filling in for Mrs. Van Auken during her maternity leave. It's great to see Mrs. Bricking at NDA again!

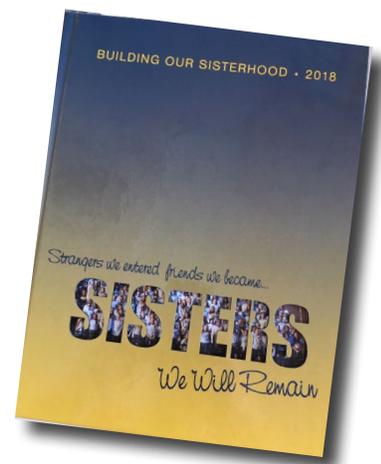
NEW FACES ◀

Please welcome Ben Shroyer, from Thomas More University, who will be completing his student teaching with NDA Physics teacher Mr. Patrick Strickley this semester. Maggie Ochsner will also be at NDA this semester. Maggie is completing her counseling coursework through Xavier and will be working with our Student Services Team while she is here.

YEARBOOK NEWS! ◀

2017-18 Yearbook: We have a limited number of copies of the 2017-18 school yearbook, "Building Our Sisterhood", available for purchase. Books are \$70 (check payable to NDA) and can be purchased in the school office or by contacting Publications instructor Rory Glynn at glynnr@ndapandas.org.

2018-19 Yearbook: This year's book, "New and Forever", will be out next fall but can be purchased now for the pre-order price of \$60. They're available at [jostens.com](https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1069982/Notre-Dame-Academy/2019-Yearbook/20180825044300310151/CATALOG_SHOP/) or by following this link. (https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1069982/Notre-Dame-Academy/2019-Yearbook/20180825044300310151/CATALOG_SHOP/)



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS ◀

PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION TODAY- Parent Meeting January 14

Covington Catholic will be hosting the Play Like a Champion Today Parent Meeting on Monday January 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. The PLAC Parent Program is a research based, athlete-centered approach designed to help parents effectively support their children along their sport journey. All parents are welcome to attend and can sign up on a Virtus account for this training under "Live Training" Pre-register for an upcoming live training session in your area."



2019 MOTHER DAUGHTER DANCE ◀

Just a reminder the Senior Mother/Daughter posters are due into the office school tomorrow. This poster is usually designed and crafted together by the daughters. If you can't get your poster finished by tomorrow, you may bring it to the dance with you on Saturday and they will put it up for you.



2019 FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE ◀

Don't miss this year's Father Daughter Dance on Friday, January 25 from 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at Receptions in Erlanger. Aloha! We are Having a Luau! The cost is \$25 per person and includes dinner, dances and non-alcoholic drinks. Hawaiian attire is encouraged! Don't forget your Leis! You can register online [HERE](#).

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY CASH RAFFLE ◀

Students will receive information about the 2019 NDA Cash Raffle Monday, January 14. The Cash Raffle benefits our tuition assistance program as well as a variety of student and program needs here at NDA. This year we are excited to launch an online option for the raffle. Please keep a look out in the upcoming days for more details.



COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀



GSE

The [Governor's School for Entrepreneurs](#) Application is open **NOW until January**



20th for Kentucky 9th, 10th, and 11th graders! A total of 72 students will be selected to learn about opportunities, benefits, and pitfalls of taking a business concept from the idea phase to pitching it to potential investors! This 3-week residential program at NKU is **FREE** of charge, and can ultimately result in college scholarships! Program dates are June 23 - July 13. Students can apply as an **INDIVIDUAL**, as a **TEAM** (Leadership/CEO, Technology, Speaker, Design/Artist) or - **THEY CAN APPLY FOR BOTH!**



KY Governor's School for the ARTS:

The application deadline of **JANUARY 11th** - next Friday - is rapidly approaching! **EACH** Art Form requires **TWO** Recommendations: one from a **TEACHER** AND one from an **ADMINISTRATOR**. Students must provide GSA with email addresses for **EACH** Recommender. Students also need to let each Recommender to which Art Form they are applying, and give each Recommender a resume and adequate time to provide a strong recommendation.

EXAMFEST

This Thursday we will have some tutoring available for students studying for exams. We will be in the school Auditorium from 3-4:30 and serving refreshments for those studying and tutoring. Just a reminder that exams start next Tuesday, January 15. Click [HERE](#) for a student schedule.

Career Fair - Participants needed

We will be having a Career Fair on March 7th from 8-11. If there are any parents interested in speaking or having a booth to talk to students about a career, please contact Mrs. Chrissy Monohan at monohanc@ndapandas.org.

EMPOWER KY YOUTH CONFERENCE

Interested 9 - 11th grade students are encouraged to apply to attend the **Empower KY Youth Conference** held next June at Western Kentucky University. This conference is designed for youth to connect and network with other students from across the state; strengthen their leadership and advocacy skills; learn strategies and tools to prevent sexual violence, substance abuse, and suicide; and discuss social justice issues that are impacting their schools and communities. Transportation, lodging, and meals are all free! Applications can be found in the Counselors' Quad and [HERE](#). Application deadline is January 22, 2019.

COMMONWEALTH HONORS ACADEMY (CHA) is an exciting, challenging academic enrichment program for outstanding high school students who have completed their junior year. CHA will take place on the campus of Murray State University from June 8-29, 2019. Upon completion of CHA, students will:

- receive six hours of university credit.
- have the opportunity to take six additional hours of *tuition-free university courses at Murray State University during their senior year
- be awarded a four-year, \$2,000-per-year housing scholarship to attend Murray State University.

There is no cost to students except for personal articles, snacks, incidental expenses, and a \$195 tuition processing fee. (Fee waived for students receiving free or reduced student lunch, or ACT Fee Waiver.) You can find more information [HERE](#). **Applications are due March 1st.**



1N5: A Community Education Opportunity

Monday, January 14, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

As parents, educators, and community members, we worry about our children's health, well-being, and success in life; yet, teen mental illness is consistently becoming more problematic leading to negative long-term outcomes.

1N5, in collaboration with MindPeace & Cincinnati Children's Hospital, invites you to attend a presentation led by Dr. Stuart Slavin, MD, MED where we will discuss the key environmental factors contributing to this epidemic and what can be done about it. We will explore ways parents and educators can reduce academic load and pressure, without lowering standards, "dumbing down" the curriculum, or missing out on some mythical perfect college application letter. You can register online [HERE](#).

ALUMNAE MENTORING ◀

Last month our seniors had the opportunity to attend a Speed Mentoring Session hosted by our Alumnae Department. We will have more opportunities throughout the rest of year, along with another Speed Mentoring Session at the end of the school year. The alumnae mentors have sessions set up for once a month to speak and interact with Seniors.

Here is what to expect for future dates:

Women in the Workplace

Wednesday, January 23

Soft Skills / Office Etiquette / Social Media Do's/ Do Not's

Wednesday, February 13

Communication / Responsiveness

Wednesday, March 13

Critical Thinking/Decision Making Skills

Wednesday, April 10

Speed Mentoring Session

Wednesday, May 1

We will release more details of each session prior to that session.

▶ Important dates

January 11	Mass in Room 102 at 3:15 p.m.
January 12	Mother/Daughter Dance
January 15-17	Mid-Term Exams
January 18	3rd Quarter Begins
	Life March
January 21	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 22	Senior retreat
January 25	Father/Daughter Dance
January 28	Catholic Schools week begins
January 30	NDA/CCH Volleyball game
February 1	Talent Show
February 1-3	Showcase
February 6	Juniors to attend Play
	Winter Sports Pep Rally

COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- NCYC
- B.R.A.K.E.S. - Teen Pro-Active Driving School

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

