



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀



Dear Parents,

With grateful hearts, our Notre Dame Academy community gathered on Monday for the first time in over a year and what a beautiful sight it was (you can see a photo of this on the following page)! While we have been together via video conferencing platforms throughout this past year, this was the very first time our students, faculty, staff and administrators had the opportunity to physically be together since March of 2020. As a Catholic school, I think it was very fitting that this momentous occasion took place during our Lenten Prayer Service where we prayed the Stations of the Cross. This special Catholic tradition commemorating Jesus's passion and death on the cross reminds us of God's tremendous love for us and allows us to place our trust in him - a lesson we learned quite well this past year! Special thanks to our Campus Minister Bridget Price and our Peer Ministers for planning this wonderful prayer service where we could safely gather our community.

This week as we came to the end of the Lenten season and Women's History Month, our students focused on Mary whose life and actions changed the history of the world. Today on our announcements one of our students

read, "We are in the midst of Holy Week - a week that was agonizing for Mary as she watched her Son take his final steps and breath on Earth. When her Son walked to Calvary, beaten, bruised and bleeding - she chose to stay and let him see her face. She chose to stand at the foot of the cross. She chose to watch her Son in his final moments and she chose to hold his lifeless body when he was removed from the cross. She could have stayed home and mourned her loss, but she chose to stand with Jesus in his darkest hour. She is a true model of strength and courage. As we approach Easter morning - we challenge each of you to find ways to model Mary's strength, courage, hope, love and willingness to serve."

While this has been a challenging year, with God's grace we have continued to provide an exemplary Catholic education to our students. As a community, we worked together seeking what was *good for others and for all* and *Uniting Humankind as Reflections of God's Love*. I am very proud of our students and faculty for their commitment to meaningful learning at NDA this school year. I hope they enjoy this break and some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Have a blessed Easter!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf

FROM THE DESK OF

*Dr. Laura Koehl*

Dear NDA Parents,

Let there be light!! I am pleased to share an exciting and illuminating announcement with all of you. By the end of this school year, there will be new lights at NDA. Thanks to the very generous support of one of our dedicated NDA families, we are adding lights to our soccer and track complex. The work has recently begun and will continue over Easter break.

We have all been through a lot in this past year as we have dealt with the impact of COVID-19 on our school, families and community. In many ways it has been a dark time. Just as our Easter story reminds us there is light in the darkness, we look to this most recent good news for NDA as an example of that. Because of the goodness and generosity of others, our campus will be lit up for many exciting NDA events. This is truly an example of being a light for others.

On behalf of our NDA faculty, staff, students and many Panda fans, I am truly grateful to our generous benefactors who made our soccer/track field lights possible. They make a difference for NDA today and for years to come. We look forward to many evening athletic events - a new and exciting opportunity for the Pandas and all our families and fans!

As we enter into this Easter Season, celebrating the new life promised in the Resurrection, may the light of Christ come into each of your lives in a many meaningful ways. Please find Easter blessings at my blog [HERE](#).

With gratitude for God's goodness today and always,

*Dr. Laura Koehl*

Dr. Laura Koehl, '75



*Our Lenten Prayer Service where we gathered for the first time in a year and prayed the Stations of the Cross as a school community.*

## 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.

## FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE ◀

**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](mailto:sizemoret@ndapandas.org) or Mrs. McLeod in the front office 859.292.1821 or [mcleods@ndapandas.org](mailto:mcleods@ndapandas.org).

If you are traveling over Easter break, please continue to follow COVID-19 mitigation strategies and monitor the state positivity rate of your destination. Even if you travel to a state with a positivity rate lower than 15%, if it rises above 15% while you are there, your daughter will need to quarantine for 10 days upon your return.

## COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols

- Daily symptom screenings with the NDA Symptom Checker
- Wearing masks
- Hand Sanitizing
- Social Distancing
- Following directional signs
- Cleaning and sanitizing our campus
- Using safety barriers where necessary
- Contact tracing
- Following NDA's COVID-19 Response Chart
- Remote Learning for students testing positive or exposed to COVID-19
- Following travel guidelines

*Together we can Make a Difference!*

**As of today, Wednesday, March 31, we have had 0 reported cases of a member of our community testing positive for COVID-19 within the last week.** Although we do not have any members of our community who have tested positive for COVID-19, we do have students who have reported that they have been exposed to COVID-19. As per our requirements, those students are following the quarantine guidelines in our [COVID-19 Response Chart](#).

We have consulted with the Diocese of Covington about these recent exposure 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](mailto:sizemoret@ndapandas.org).

# STUDENT LIFE



## EASTER BREAK TRAVEL ◀

We appreciate everyone who completed the Easter Travel Inquiry Form and informed us of any travel over the break. If quarantine is required upon your return, you have been notified by our school nurse, Mrs. Sizemore. If you are traveling domestically and by car, quarantine will not be necessary unless your destination turns to a 15% or more positivity rate while you are there. If you have not been contacted by the school nurse but reported traveling, this is likely why and quarantine is not anticipated. Feel free to contact Mrs. Grayson or Mrs. Sizemore if you have any questions or concerns regarding your travel.

## STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS ◀

Congratulations to the following Juniors elected as Student Council School Officers for the 2021-2022 school year:

### School Co-Presidents

Clare Hooper  
Ellie Joyce

### School Secretary

Katie McKeown

### School Treasurer

Addie Woeste

### Public Relations Coordinator

Jayden Otto

*Congratulations!*

SPRING 2021 NDA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER VOLUME 95



### COVID: ONE YEAR LATER

- 19 things we've learned, 2-3
- OBSERVING LENT
- Sacrifices, special prayer service, 4



## THE GAVEL



NDA students turned out in force to support the basketball team in its thrilling 59-50 victory over Ryle in the semifinals of the Ninth Region tournament Saturday, March 27 at Holmes. NDA meets Dixie for the title Monday.

### IT'S MARCH

- Basketball overcomes obstacles and Ryle to roll into Ninth Region final, 6-7

### PANDANESS!

- Our Lunch Madness bracket reaches a sweet (and savory) 16, 5

## EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! ◀

That's right Pandas, the latest issue of the Gavel has hit the stands and it's an especially good read! You can find NDA's online newspaper produced by the NDA Publications Classes under the direction of Mr. Rory Glynn [HERE](#).

# FINAL FORMS FOR CURRENT FRESHMEN THROUGH JUNIORS ◀

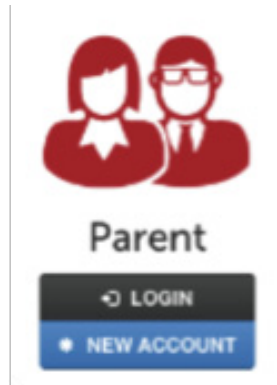
Hello Parents and Students. Please login to FinalForms to complete and sign all required forms for the 2021-2022 school year. Remember, FinalForms saves data from season-to-season and year-to-year, so your updates are critical for the accuracy of our records. **You should have received your daughter's course requests which were sent to your email on Monday, March 22. This information is important for the "Scheduling Agreement" tab in FinalForms.**

## What information will I need to register for next year?

If your insurance company, policy number, doctor, dentist, and/or other medical specialist has changed, we will need that up-to-date contact information.

**Visit the following link to access your account:** <https://notredameacademy-ky.finalforms.com/students>

Click LOGIN under the Parent Icon.



**Make sure you are on the 2021-2022 school year. You will see screens as shown below.**

**Locate and click the INCOMPLETE FORMS button** for the student you wish to register for next year. Please note: if you have a second child entering the Freshmen Class for 2025, she can be added using her NDA Gmail account information which was shared at your Saturday conference.

**If your student plans to participate in a sport, click the checkbox for each.** Then, click UPDATE after making your selection. Selections may be changed until the registration deadline on May 1, 2021.

**Complete each form and sign your full name in the parent signature field on each page.** After signing each, click SUBMIT FORM and move on to the next form.

### Form Signatures

Parent Signature:

Your signature **MUST** match your name: Clayton Barnett

Student Signature:

Student must log in to sign.

[Back to Top](#)

When all forms are complete, you will see a 'Forms Finished' message.



## NDA SCIENCE RESEARCH STUDENTS PLACE AT STATE! ◀

Congratulations to our Science Research students who recently competed at the Kentucky Science and Engineering Fair.

2021 KY Science and Engineering Fair Winners from NDA:

### **Natalie Janzaruk**

Engineering Mechanics

*The Effect of Wrapping Space on Pressure Required for Bending in Fiber Reinforced Soft Actuators*

- 2nd Place

### **Ana Kothandram**

Earth and Environmental Science

*The Impact of Herbicides and Fungicides on Eisenia fetida*

- 4th Place

- Ricoh Americas Corporation-Ricoh Sustainable Development Award 2015-Project that demonstrated the principles and technical innovations that offer the greatest potential for Sustainable Development

## NDA STUDENT WINS KENTUCKY RIGHT TO LIFE ESSAY CONTEST ◀

Congratulations to NDA junior, Gabby Browning. She wrote an essay for the Kentucky Right to Life Association of Kentucky and it was chosen among 11th graders all over the state of Kentucky. She was awarded a certificate and scholarship at the Celebration of Life Banquet on March 18.

## NDA SUMMER ART STUDIO ◀

Mr. Eckerle will once again be offering Junior High and High School Summer Art Studio classes this summer. You can find more information and the registration form for these fun summer programs [HERE](#). **Please note: registration forms are due by May 28.**

## IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PARENTS ◀

Attention Parents - Please check on your daughter's lunch account balance - we currently have many overdue accounts. You can check your daughter's account here: [PayPams](#).



# Campus Ministry

## OUR LENTEN JOURNEY ◀

During the Lenten Season we encouraged students to find ways that they could draw closer to God through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. In addition to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we came together as a school community on Monday to pray the Stations of the Cross during our Lenten Prayer Service commemorating Jesus's passion and death on the cross.



## RETREAT UPDATES ◀

**Junior Retreat Update:** The Junior Class Retreat has been rescheduled to Friday, April 23, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. All Juniors are expected to attend. If your daughter is on the remote learning list at that time she will be sent reflection activities to complete at home that day as she will not be allowed on campus. More details will be shared with the Juniors after Spring Break.

**Sophomore Retreat & Ring Ceremony:** The Sophomore Class retreat has been scheduled for Thursday, April 22, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. All Sophomores are expected to attend. If your daughter is on the remote learning list at that time she will be sent reflection activities to complete at home that day as she will not be allowed on Campus. We will be incorporating the Sophomore Ring Ceremony into the Retreat Day this year. More details will be shared with the Sophomores after Spring Break.

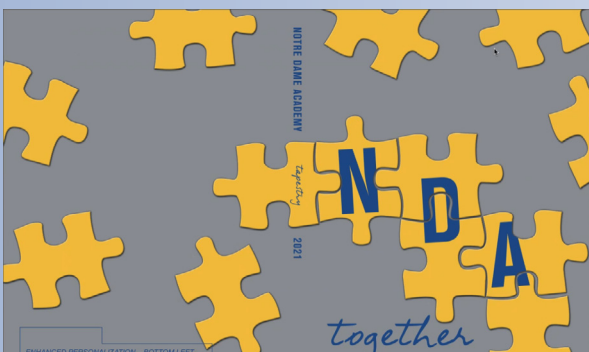


## YEARBOOKS: RECOGNITION ADS ARE BACK! ◀

Don't forget to buy your yearbook! Yearbooks on sale through May 28 [HERE](#).

Senior parents: You're understandably proud of your daughter? Why not say it with a yearbook recognition ad? They're available in a variety of sizes starting at just \$45. You get to choose the photos and words you want, and making them is quick, easy and fun! Getting started is as simple as following this link:

[https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/ybAdDesigner/1069982/-/20210223041611680102/CATALOG\\_SHOP/](https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/ybAdDesigner/1069982/-/20210223041611680102/CATALOG_SHOP/)





## PANDA PROWL ◀

Students are encouraged to turn in sponsorships for the Panda Prowl on selected turn-in days! To help our PaNDAs reach their goal and to be eligible for our awesome incentives, click [HERE](#) to donate!

### PANDA PROWL TURN IN DAYS:

#### March

**3/30: Turn in Day 1**  
(Out of Uniform 3/31)

#### April

**4/15: Turn in Day 2**  
(Out of Uniform 4/16)

**4/22: Turn in Day 3**  
(Out of Uniform 4/23)

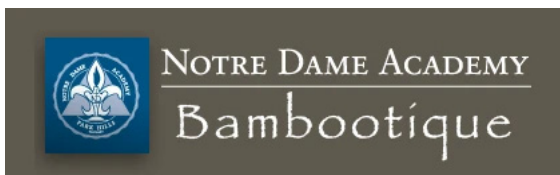
**4/28: Turn in Day 4**  
(Out of Uniform 4/29)

### PANDA PROWL INCENTIVES:

**\$50- Panda Prowl T-Shirt**

**\$75- Panda Prowl T-Shirt  
Ice Cream Voucher  
1 Out of Uniform Day**

**\$100- Panda Prowl T-Shirt  
Ice Cream Voucher  
1-4 Out of Uniform  
Days  
(2) 5 minute Early  
Dismissals  
\$1000 cash drawing**



## BAMBOOTIQUE NEWS ◀

We hope we can bring something positive to your day—as our way of saying thank you for supporting us. 10% off entire order from the spirit shop. Shop now at NDA's [online Bambootique](#).



### IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

**Work Study Job Application Deadline: April 16, 2021**

**Financial Aid Applications & Academic and Tuition Assistance Scholarships**

The application for work study jobs is available on the website [HERE](#) and is due by **APRIL 16, 2021**.

Financial aid applications are also now open and will remain open until **APRIL 16, 2021**.

If you are in need of financial assistance OR are looking to do work study the application with FACTS must be completed before anything else. Financial assistance requests increase each year we cannot stress enough the importance of getting your application in early. Late applications run the risk of financial aid funding being exhausted. You can access the Financial Assistance page of the website [HERE](#).

**If a family receives financial assistance, a family member is expected to have a work study job.**

We are currently accepting applications for Academic Scholarships. Applications can be found on the website [HERE](#) and are due in the front office no later than **April 16, 2021**.



# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

## KHSAA COVID-19 RETURN TO PLAY FORM ◀

All students who test positive for COVID-19 must be cleared for progression back to activity by an approved health care provider (MD/DO) and **MUST** complete the [KHSAA COVID-19 Return to Play Form](#) before returning to participation in a physical education class or sports at NDA.



## ARCHERY NEWS ◀

The Archery Pandas completed a very successful season competing at the Regional Tournament at Scott High School last Saturday. The team scored 2892 with 63 tens. The team was led by Ella Weitzel at 276, Hana Kennedy 273, Natalie Lovell 262, Keira Schneider 261 and Madison Merk 252. Way to Go Pandas!

## COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀



## FREE PARENT WORKSHOPS FROM “COLLEGE & BEYOND” ◀

College & Beyond is offering Spring 2021 College Info Workshops for Parents. Workshop Topics Include: College Funding, Divorced Families and the College Process, Tips To Help Your Student Get Into Their Top College, and more. [College & Beyond: Spring Workshops](#)

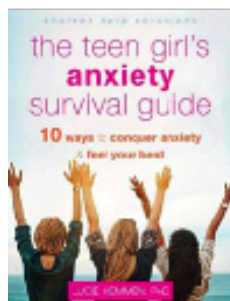
## RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS ◀

### NDA PARENT TOOLBOX

#### NEW ITEM!

The Teen Girl's Anxiety Survival Guide: 10 Ways to Conquer Anxiety and Feel Your Best, by Lucy Hemmen

10 strategies to help cope with anxious thoughts and feelings in healthy ways. You'll learn how anxiety works, and why you feel it; how to overcome negative thinking; mindfulness skills for calming your mind and body; and how self-compassion can help cultivate a more positive outlook on life.





## #PANDASTRONG! ◀

At Notre Dame Academy we often say “once a Panda, always a Panda” and our Class of 1987 proved that to be true last week! Our alumnae from 1987 heard there were a couple of their fellow Pandas who needed some support last week so they did what Pandas do - they showed up!

After the sad and disturbing news that NKY restaurant Oriental Wok was dealing with threats and racial issues, the Class of 1987 showed up to support fellow class member, Susanna Wong Burgess and her family. Susanna was class president to these alumnae so they decided to gather at the Oriental Wok earlier this week for dinner and drinks. Class Captain for the Class of 1987, Jennie Gubser King, said they collected over \$1k for the Wong family to donate as they see fit.

Following dinner, they continued their love and support in a drive-by parade with horns, signs, balloons, flowers and cookies for classmate Amy Dacey Domina who couldn't join them at dinner due to cancer treatments. Thanks for living the mission of NDA Class of '87! You made a difference!

## JUST A FEW MORE... ◀

Thank you very much to those of you who have already subscribed to our YouTube channel to help us reach 1000 subscribers! In order to live stream with a mobile device on YouTube, our channel needs to have at least 1000 subscribers. Currently we have 817. We are so close! Once we have 1000 subscribers, we will be able to share Masses, athletics events and more with our NDA community. If you haven't already subscribed, please do so at the link below. If you have already subscribed, please share the link with a friend or family member. **PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) to subscribe to NDA's YouTube channel today.**



## 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](#).



## 2021 AUTUMN GALA ◀

Save the date! This year's Autumn Gala is scheduled for October 16, 2021. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Planning Committee for the 2021 Autumn Gala, please contact Nancy Goeke at [goeken@ndapandas.org](mailto:goeken@ndapandas.org) or 859.292.1851.



As a school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame, at NDA we teach our students to appreciate, respect and reverence the uniqueness of each individual and the diversity among all persons. We advocate for peace and justice and we strongly condemn racism and hateful acts. The Wong family is part of our NDA family. Their daughters and granddaughter are graduates of Notre Dame Academy and they support us in our mission to educate young women to make a difference in the world. Please join us in supporting the Wong family and their family business as they face the injustice of racism.

## ORIENTAL WOK

[Oriental Wok](#) is 44! 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 grandkids

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- Children's Home of Northern Kentucky (CHNK) "Shecession" Women's Empowerment Group
- Seeking Lower Tuition Payments?
- Help Wanted
- Cafeteria Staff Needed

## ▶ Important dates

April 1	Spring break begins
April 12	Classes resume
April 16	Midquarter
April 19	Grade Level Co-President Elections in homerooms
April 22	SO Retreat (SO no classes)
April 23	JR Retreat (JR no classes)
April 30	Panda Prowl (no classes today)
	PROM