



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ◀

Greetings parents!

I hope you are having an enjoyable and relaxing summer. It is hard to believe the 2015-16 school year is only 6 weeks away! Our new Principal, Mr. Jack VonHandorf began his tenure at NDA on July 1st and it was a pleasure to welcome him to our community. He received a very warm welcome from our Facebook followers, our summer art students, band members and those of us on campus during the summer. It is my honor to introduce him in his first edition of the PPW. Please see his letter of greeting below.

We have been busy planning for the new year and preparing our school for our teachers and students. In addition to the annual summer cleaning which includes freshly waxed floors throughout the building, we are working to address several much needed facility upgrades. Due to a generous bequest from one of our alumnae, we are completing the following;

- Renovations in the band room (removing remnants of the old locker room showers) and creating a boys' dressing room for our CCH actors
- New pavement on the faculty parking lot
- Fresh coat of paint in the auditorium (the green walls are gone!)
- Refinished floor in the auditorium
- A new electronic sign on Dixie Highway (coming in August)

One of the highlights of the summer so far, was the SND Education Summit held at the University of Dayton. This 3-day program was planned and sponsored by the SND National Education Office and over 150 educators from our four USA Provinces and some from our international congregations were in attendance. The meeting focused on our SND educational heritage and the many ways this is incorporated into the educational experience for our students. Seven of our NDA faculty members attended, five were presenters at the conference. See photos below.

For our country, this has been a memorable summer in many ways. I am sure many of our girls will never forget the World Cup Championship for the USA Women's Soccer Team! What an amazing accomplishment and wonderful celebration of women's success as athletes and as leaders. In watching that championship game, I hope each of our young women felt a sense of hopefulness for all they might achieve in their own lives when given the chance to use their God-given talents. I know I did!

I have moved out of the principal's office and happily welcome Mr. VonHandorf to his new office. You will find me on the first floor hallway near the elevator (this was the snack lounge when I was a student.) I hope you will stop in to see me when you are on campus.

I look forward to welcoming our students and families for the 2015-16 school year. Until then, enjoy your summer and I hope you have plenty of time to relax with family and friends. See you in early August for the Parent Information Meetings.

May you know God's goodness each day,

Dr. Laura Koehl



### Meet the NDA's New Principal!

Parents, don't miss the opportunity to meet Mr. Jack VonHandorf at NDA's Welcome Back Socials held at 6:00 p.m. on August 4 and 5 prior to the Parent Information Meetings. Refreshments will be provided.

# Welcome to NDA, Mr. VonHandorf!



## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Hello parents!

It is an honor and a privilege to be writing you as the Principal of Notre Dame Academy. I am excited to work alongside NDA President Dr. Laura Koehl, our Board, and NDA faculty and staff. I am thrilled to be part of this premier Catholic high school providing excellent academic and co-curricular programs that prepare graduates to be outstanding female leaders serving our world. This is truly an opportunity of a lifetime for me personally and professionally.

I hope everyone has been able to take advantage of the summer break. It has been great to start working with the faculty and staff of NDA. They have made me feel very welcomed and the students that I have met have been equally kind.

It has been impressive to see the number of faculty members present on campus taking time to prepare for the upcoming school year. The amount of collaboration taking place is equally as impressive. The SND conference that Dr. Koehl mentioned was a unique and humbling

way to get acclimated as an administrator to such a rich tradition focused on great teaching to promote student learning.

Speaking of student learning, I hope all of our students have been working on their summer reading assignments. The freshman summer reading *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*, our common reader, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, along with the Notre Dame faculty book club selection, *A God in Ruins*, have all been part of my summer reading program.

There are a few important items pertaining to the beginning of school year that you need to be aware of beginning with the **Parent Information Meetings**. These meetings will be held on **Tuesday, August 4** (Juniors and Seniors) and **Wednesday, August 5** (Freshmen and Sophomores). I invite you to join me for a **Welcome Back Social** sponsored by PTO and the Alumnae Office at **6:00 p.m.** prior to the meetings. Refreshments will be provided. The meetings will begin at **6:30 p.m.** in the NDA Theatre and last approximately one hour. The meeting agenda will include information on academics, student life, campus ministry, counseling, instructional technology, PTO and more. Grade level specific information will be included each night. It is very important that each family is represented at these meetings. Parents of new students should find additional announcements in the section below.

Fall class schedules are currently being finalized. Students and parents can view these on Power School starting on August 1 (for information about accessing Power School, please click [HERE](#)). Copies of schedules will also be handed out at the upcoming parent/student information nights.

The calendar for the 2015-16 school year can be found at our website [HERE](#). Also, please see the important list of dates regarding the beginning of school in the list below.

Each year we provide a directory of contact information for our families. This will be made available at the beginning of the school year. Please watch for an email regarding this directory and permission to publish your information.

What a great opportunity to be surrounded by so many people with a passion for education. The learning of a new school culture can be overwhelming at times, but the support from faculty and staff have helped in this transition. I look forward to our work together to empower and educate young women to go and make a difference in our world. We look forward to the upcoming school year and the many new experiences that await us. Enjoy the remainder of the summer months!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf

## WELCOME NEW STUDENTS ◀

If you are the parent of an incoming freshman or a sophomore transferring to NDA, please plan to attend the parent meeting on **August 5 at 6:30 p.m.** in the theater.

If you are the parent of a junior or senior transferring to NDA, please plan to attend the parent meeting on **August 4 at 6:30 p.m.** in the theater.



At the parent meeting you will receive important information about the school year and how we will help your daughter in making the transition to NDA. Student schedules will be distributed at this meeting as well as information about accessing Power School (online grading and records) accounts.

An important part of the transition process is **Freshman/New Student Orientation** held on **July 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Lunch will be provided. The orientation program will include information about the daily schedule, course requirements, opportunities for co-curricular involvement and the use of the iPad. Your daughter will have the opportunity to meet current and new students and start to develop some important relationships. (**Note: Orientation for students transferring to NDA begins at 10:00 a.m.**)

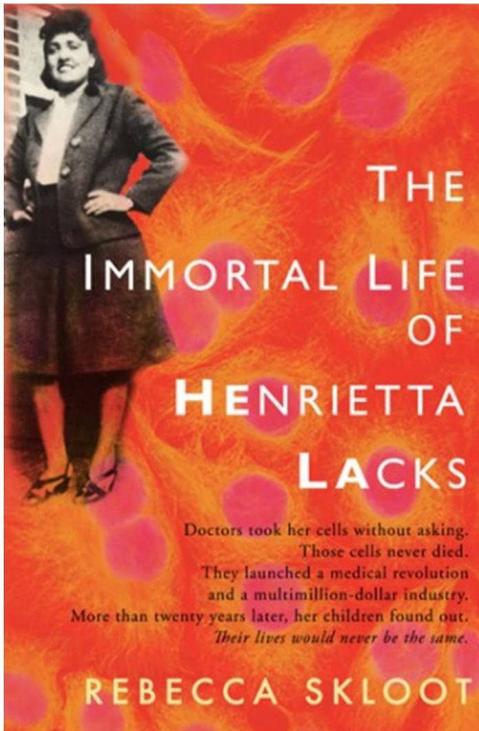
Students will be expected to bring their iPads to the New Student Orientation. At this time our Instructional Technology staff will assist students in setting up their iPads and orient them to the ways in which it will be used in the classroom. Opportunities for additional assistance with the iPads will continue into the school year and this will be explained at the orientation.

Prior to Freshman/New Student Orientation, you must have an Apple ID established on your iPad, so you can be enrolled in our system. Visit the school's website at <http://www.ndapandas.org/academics/instructional-technology/students/ipad-tutorials.aspx> to learn how to set up an Apple ID.

It is imperative that you come to orientation with an established Apple ID!

Important  
Orientation  
Information:

## NDA COMMUNITY SHARING IN COMMON READER EXPERIENCE ◀



Our Common Reader for the 2015-16 school year is *The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. This phenomenal New York Times best-seller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.

While this is a required reading assignment for NDA students, faculty and staff, everyone in the NDA community is invited to share in this common reader experience, including parents. A committee of faculty, staff and students are planning many events and discussions for the fall to illuminate concepts in the book.

“Our common reader initiative clearly contributes to NDA’s educational mission and vision as a school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame,” said NDA Principal Mr. Jack VonHandorf. “This shared experience will prepare our students to engage thoughtfully with the complex moral and ethical dilemmas posed by developing technologies and the world we share.”

**SUMMER READING: Check out all of NDA's Summer Reading Assignments [HERE](#).**



## STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

### Attention 2015-16 Student Council Members

The first meeting of the year is scheduled for Friday, July 24, and your attendance is mandatory. The meeting, held at NDA, begins at 9:00 a.m. and will end at approximately 3:00 p.m. From Freshmen Orientation to the first day of school, we will have plenty to discuss!

### Uniform Policy

*Begin preparing for the 2015-16 school year by taking a look at NDA's uniform policy.*

Notre Dame Academy has a school uniform that consists of:

- a gray uniform skirt (the skirt must fit properly, be zipped and buttoned, hemmed appropriately and free of stains, rips, and/or holes). Students are encouraged to purchase a new skirt if it no longer zips, has tears, holes, or stains.
- a white or light blue NDA banded shirt for Freshmen through Seniors
- solid white, gray, black or navy blue socks
- appropriate shoes that have a back to them



Optional items that may be purchased and worn with the uniform include:

- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy pullover sweater
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy sweatshirt
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy fleece
- a navy blue blazer with NDA's emblem for special occasions such as Mass, award ceremonies, etc.
- gray, black, or navy blue leggings
- black dress slacks and a white blouse for designated events

No colored undergarments or undergarments with visible writing that detracts from the uniform may be worn under the uniform blouse. If a student chooses to wear a T-shirt under the uniform shirt, it must be a plain white V-neck and may not be visible. No slacks may be worn under the uniform during the school day. Students may wear the uniform sweater or sweatshirt during the school day. No other sweaters or sweatshirts are acceptable.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE ◀

### Unified 4 Uganda Leadership Summit at Xavier University

Leaders of Notre Dame's Uganda Panda Club attended a three day summit at the beginning of June. Francie Case, Katie Stratman and Claire Dunlevy attended the event hosted by Unified 4 Uganda (U4U) - a Cincinnati Non-Profit that financially and emotionally supports the education of destitute children in northern Uganda through the empowerment of American youth. As our own Uganda Panda Club strives to connect with our sister school in Buseesa, Uganda, the U4U organization will enable students in Park Hills, Kentucky, learn more about the culture and people of Uganda. The Uganda Pandas are looking forward to joining U4U in their efforts this year.

## NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

### Golf Outing July 31st

It's not too late to support the 17th annual NDA athletic golf outing at Twin Oaks on July 31st! You can donate financially, with gifts for raffle or sign up to play in a foursome. All information and forms are on the NDA website at: <http://www.ndapandas.org/athletics/golf-outing.aspx>. All proceeds benefit the athletic teams and programs and are greatly appreciated. We look forward to another great event and hope to see you there!

### Athletics Registration for Fall Sports

Athletic registration for all fall sports is due Friday, July 10. You can register online at: <http://www.ndapandas.org/athletics/athletic-information-and-forms.aspx>.

### Freshman/New Student Athletic Orientation

Athletic orientation for freshmen and new students is September 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Theater and Alumnae Hall.

## NDA BRIDGE PROGRAM (For incoming freshmen) ◀

The program assists freshmen in gaining some Math, English and study skills before the start of the school year. It will be held at Notre Dame Academy from Monday, August 3, 2015 - Friday, August 7, 2015. It begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:00 p.m.

The cost of the week is \$75.00 with scholarships available for those who need them. If possible, please have your daughter bring her I-Pad, as we will be using these and getting some advance knowledge of some good apps and note taking skills. Dress is casual and students also need to bring a drink/snack and a calculator.

To register or for more information email: Mrs. Christine Monohan, NDA Academic Counselor Email: [monohanc@ndapandas.org](mailto:monohanc@ndapandas.org).

## IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN ◀

All incoming freshmen need to turn in their immunization forms by Monday, August 3.



## NDA'S FALL GALA ◀

Mark your calendars - NDA's largest fundraiser, The Autumn Gala, is **Saturday, September 26, 2015**, at NDA. Join friends, family and alumnae for a night of food and fun while supporting the mission of NDA. This year there's a tasty twist! The evening will include live and silent auctions, entertaining games, beer and wine samplings, and A Taste of NDA, a celebration of culinary delights from some of the area's favorite chefs and eateries. Whether your taste buds prefer sweet or savory, you are sure to enjoy this appetizing evening for a great cause.

The event is being chaired by Leanne Kirn, JoAnn Rigney '93, and Erin Yung. These ladies are already hard at work planning a very special evening, and they could use your help. To lend a hand, please contact Leanne Kirn at 859.261-4300, [kirnl@ndapandas.org](mailto:kirnl@ndapandas.org).

We still have a couple of open spots for food vendors. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jan Gilliam at 859.292.1850, [gilliamj@ndapandas.org](mailto:gilliamj@ndapandas.org).

Many sponsorship opportunities are available to support NDA and the September 26 event. The Autumn Gala revenue supports NDA's efforts to keep tuition as affordable as possible. Contact Leanne Kirn at 859.261.4300, [kirnl@ndapandas.org](mailto:kirnl@ndapandas.org) to find out more about becoming an event sponsor for The Autumn Gala, A Taste of NDA.

## ▶ Important dates: Opening of School Year

July 10	Deadline: Athletic Registration for Fall Sports
July 29	Freshman/New Student Orientation 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
July 31	17th Annual NDA Golf Outing
August 3-7	NDA Bridge Program
August 4	6:00 p.m. Welcome Back Social / 6:30 p.m. - Junior/Senior Parent Meeting
August 5	6:00 p.m. Welcome Back Social / 6:30 p.m. - Freshmen/Sophomore Parent Meeting
<b>August 13</b>	<b>First Day of 2015-16 School Year</b>
September 2	Athletic Orientation for New Students/Parents