



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

As I begin my first year as principal of Notre Dame Academy, I am energized and deeply committed to making a positive difference in the lives of our students. On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration at NDA, it is my pleasure to welcome you and your daughter to a new school year.

Our theme for the 2015-16 school year is *Living our Story of God's Goodness* and we certainly did that this morning as we welcomed our students to campus. Our theme is based on the first Educational Principal of the Sisters of Notre Dame which is **The Centrality of a Good and Provident God**. Our story involves everyone in our NDA community, including our 590 students, 535 families, 75 faculty and staff members, 10,851 alumnae, and the 2,200 Sisters of Notre Dame living around the world. I am eager to begin sharing with you each week how we are *Living our Story of God's Goodness* every day at NDA.

In preparation for the new year, our faculty, staff and administration came together earlier this week. We discussed academic program information, policies and procedures and our upcoming common reader day. While each of those discussions were important and beneficial, the most notable event of the day was our celebration of the Mass together. Our chaplain, Msgr. William Cleves, spoke about the parable of the Lost Sheep. He reminded us of what we as educators hold foremost in our hearts, the importance of care and compassion for each of our students. Please see our prayer for the new school year below.

There are many noteworthy news items on the pages that follow. I encourage you to take time to read this electronic newsletter each week as it is an excellent way to stay current on the news and events at NDA.

I am confident that this will be an outstanding school year and look forward to working with the entire NDA community to continue the Notre Dame Academy tradition of academic excellence. Again, thank you for partnering with us. I look forward to the many graces and blessings of this new school year.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf

Prayer for the New School Year!

*Give us the kindness to hear with compassion,
To offer support, loving comfort and care.*

*Give us the courage to do what is needed,
The wisdom to choose what is right and fair.*

Give us the vision to see what is possible.

*Give us the faith that will help pave the way,
For a present that is hopeful, a future that is peaceful.*

Give us the heart to bring joy to each day.

Amen.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ◀

Greetings Parents,

Welcome to the 2015-16 school year. It is truly a pleasure to welcome our students, faculty and staff to our new school year. This has been a productive summer as we begin a new era at NDA with our principal, Mr. Jack VonHandorf. Our students were ready to give Mr. VonHandorf a warm and generous Panda welcome this morning!

The coming year holds great promise for all of us as we celebrate our school theme: **Living our Story of God's Goodness**. We have much to be thankful for in the many lives of our students, faculty and staff. I also look forward to sharing stories of our alumnae with their community. We will feature different alumnae throughout the year in an effort to share with our community the ways that NDA graduates are making a difference in our world. These are indeed stories of God's goodness.

If you have a story to share or would like to recommend an alumna to feature, please email me at koehl@ndapandas.org. These stories will be a source of inspiration and hope for our students.

One important way that we live our story is the many opportunities we have to gather in fellowship and celebration. Please mark your calendars for our Autumn Gala: A Taste of NDA. This annual event, which welcomes parents, alumnae and many friends, will be held on Saturday, September 26 at 6:30 p.m. I hope to see you there!

May you know God's goodness each day,



Dr. Laura Koehl



STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

All parents and students are reminded to read the Student/Parent Handbook that is available [HERE](#) on the school's website. The policies and procedures as described in the handbook serve as a guide for the whole community. Don't forget to complete and return to school the pink Parent/Student Agreement form received at the Back to School Night Meetings. Your completion of this form indicates you have read and are familiar with the contents of our Student/Parent Handbook. The forms are due on Friday, August 21 and will be collected during homeroom time.

One specific change in school policy for this year is that students are allowed to drink water throughout the day and in their classes. Water must be in a clear container with a lid.

WELCOME TO NDA! ◀

New Faculty/Staff 2015-16

Mr. Jack VonHandorf	Principal
Mrs. Erin Maggard	Personal Counselor
Mrs. Corrie Ziegler	Faculty - Science Department
Mrs. Robyn Cox	Full-Time Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Sue McLoed	Part-Time Administrative Assistant
Ms. Kate Stark	Pom Coach/Dance Team Moderator



COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

ATTENTION JUNIOR PARENTS

On Wednesday, August 26, the juniors will be taking a practice ACT test at NDA. This test will start at 8:00 a.m. on this day which is earlier than the normal 9:00 a.m. start time. Students will need to be here at 7:45 a.m. to be ready for the 8:00 a.m. start time. The test is being administered by Torchprep Services and students and parents will have an opportunity to review results. Please contact Mrs. Monohan (monohanc@ndapandas.org) with any questions or concerns.



NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

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.

Congratulations to NDA's Golf Pandas!

The NDA Golf Team recently won the Grant County Invitational with a team score of 308 and the Mercedes Benz Cooper Classic with a team score of 321. They are off to a great start of the season!

Seasons Begin

Soccer will begin competition this Saturday at Soccerama and volleyball next Tuesday with a home match verse Scott at 5p/6p/7p.

**IMPORTANT
REMINDER!**

All school forms received on Parent Night must be turned in to homeroom teachers on or before August 20.

CAFETERIA NEWS ◀

FYI

Parents, if you do not want to pay for your daughter's lunches through online, you can bring a check to the office. There is a blue box on the counter for lunch payments.

Positions Available:

There are currently two positions in the NDA Cafeteria that need to be filled for the 2015-16 school year.

Deli Specialist: The deli specialist is responsible for preparation of ala Carte side items (fruit, salad, sandwiches, etc.). He/she will also be responsible for other miscellaneous duties.

Dishwasher: This person is responsible for the cleaning of pots & pans, and other items used during preparation and service on a daily basis. There could be other miscellaneous duties.

If you are interested or for further information about either of these positions, please contact NDA Cafeteria Manager Karen Brungs at 859.292.1865 or brungsk@ndapandas.org.

BAMBOOTIQUE WORKERS NEEDED ◀

We are in need of parents to work the Bambootique this year. The shifts would be approximately 1.5-2 hours. Some months we are open every day and others we will be open a few times a week. Please email Aimee Dickhaus at ddickhaus@yahoo.com if you are able to help out this school year, whether it be on a monthly basis or as a sub.

EVERYONE IS A PART OF OUR STORY ◀

This school year, our theme is *Living our Story of God's Goodness*. Each and every member of the NDA community is an important part of our story and we would like to showcase that in our foyer display case. Whether you are a student, parent, alumna, administration, faculty or staff member, show us how you are *Living our Story of God's Goodness* in a picture. We will put all of the pictures collected from the NDA community together in the display case. Pictures should be no larger than 8X10 but can be as small as 4X6 and can be dropped off in the office anytime. Thank you in advance for your help in helping us show everyone who enters NDA how we *Live our Story!*



PANDA PARENT CLUB

WELCOME TO ALL OF OUR NDA PARENTS! ◀

As a parent of an NDA student, you are automatically a member of our Parent Panda Club!

NDA's Parent Panda Club (PPC) is a group of parents who provide a great service to NDA by supporting and planning many social and community activities throughout the school year. There will be a PPC meeting open to all parents once each month September through May. Soon you will receive an email about Panda Parent Club meetings which will include a survey to help us find the best meeting time for parents. Please help us by responding to this survey.

There are many ways to get involved at Notre Dame Academy and parent volunteers are very much appreciated. We hope you plan to attend our meetings and share your ideas and energy. Watch for announcements in the Panda Press Weekly to find out when and where future PPC meetings will be held and learn more about the group.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Presents

EMPOWERED & Enlightened

A SPECIAL SPEAKER SERIES FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES

PART ONE:

FREE Self-Defense Class

Tuesday, August 25, 2015

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

NDA Alumane Hall

NDA PRESENTS 2015-16 SPEAKER SERIES ◀

This school year, Notre Dame Academy is hosting a four-part speaker series focusing on *Empowering & Enlightening Women of All Ages*.

The series will kick-off with a **FREE Self-Defense Class** for women on Tuesday, August 25 in Alumnae Hall.

The class will be taught by martial arts expert, Shawnie Haskell of Northern Kentucky Self Defense. Ms. Haskell teaches practical self defense methods that provide participants with easy to use self defense techniques requiring little to no strength in order to help them get away from an attacker. These techniques give participants the tools necessary to protect themselves in any situation from violent crime to assault of any kind.

The statistics for women are startling: 1 in 4 college women are victims of attempted or completed rape, 1 in 6 women will be a victim of attempted or completed attack. This event is a wonderful opportunity to empower yourself and your daughter(s) and learn prevention strategies and practical

self defense techniques. Please plan to attend this important event with your daughter. **ALL ARE WELCOME.** Participants do not need to be members of NDA families. Feel free to bring a group of friends of any age.

Space is limited so register online for this **FREE Self-Defense Class** today at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1c5T0kPd5tLITyZj7zd02FukqyfXpC9H5ytVCrbkGMA/viewform?usp=send_form

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, 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.

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.

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 to find out more about becoming an event sponsor for The Autumn Gala, A Taste of NDA.



2016 WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE ◀

Do you know a Notre Dame Academy graduate who has made a difference? The nomination form for the 2016 Women Making A Difference is available online [HERE](#).

The Women Making A Difference Luncheon will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at the Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront in Covington, Kentucky. Nominations are due November 2, 2015.

A logo for "Women Making A Difference". The text "Women Making A Difference" is written in a blue, cursive font. The background is a blue gradient with faint silhouettes of people.

▶ Important dates:

August 13	First Day of 2015-16 School Year
August 14	9:30 a.m. Opening School Mass
August 25	7:00 p.m. NDA Empowering Women Speaker Series featuring a FREE Self-Defense Class
August 26	8-11:45 a.m. ACT Practice Test for Juniors
September 1	Theatre Parent Meeting
September 2	8-9 a.m. Junior ACT Assembly Athletic Orientation for New Students/Parents
September 4	Picture Day
September 7	No School - Labor Day
September 9	6 p.m. Gala Gift Gathering Party 7-9 p.m. Parent Mini-Night