



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Greetings parents,

“Let us journey together in hope.”

Our theme for the 2013-14 year comes from the SND Educational Vision statement (See below). At our opening assembly on Monday, I encouraged our students to consider two key words in the statement: together and hope. In making this journey together, we must commit ourselves to being a strong community of learners. We should challenge and support one another to be the best person that God made us to be every day. Our journey is filled with the hope that comes from knowing we are each blessed with the gifts God has given us and with an NDA education that helps us to make the most of those gifts. To be hopeful is to set goals and to believe that we can achieve those goals. Throughout the school year we will reflect on this theme in liturgies, prayer services, student activities and class discussion. Our hope is that the theme will be a source of inspiration for each of our students as she experiences the many opportunities available to her at NDA.

On Monday, we welcomed our students back and gave a special welcome to the 170 new students, including transfer students. Our new students come from 19 Catholic schools and 10 public schools in our area. As a school community we shared in the celebration of our opening Mass led by our chaplain Msgr. William Cleves who challenged each of us to making the most of our educational experience by going out into the world and serving others.

As the school year gets underway, please make note of these important events coming up in the next few days:

- New Student Athlete Orientation meeting on August 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. All new students interested in playing a sport must attend with at least one parent.
- Opening School Mixer on August 23 at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Chaperones are still needed. Please email Mrs. Grayson at graysona@ndapandas.org if you can help out.
- NDA/CCH Theater Information meeting on August 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Theater.

The Advancement Office is making plans for our annual Autumn Gala scheduled for October 5. Several parents are involved in planning the special fundraiser for our school. Please watch for additional information and join us for this fun-filled evening. Students are required to sell five raffle tickets for the event and these will be distributed in the next couple of weeks.

Finally, as the new school year begins, please know that we are truly grateful to our parents for your commitment to Catholic education. Thank you for sending your beautiful daughters to NDA!

May you know God's goodness each day,

Dr. Laura Koehl



Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Vision Statement

Impelled by Jesus Christ and his mission and our rich educational heritage, we provide a Catholic Christian environment of educational excellence for the transformation of individuals and society.

We form persons who are skilled and committed to journey together in hope as witnesses and catalysts for the responsible care of all God's creation and for justice and peace, especially for those on the margins of society.

iPad UPDATE ◀

The 2013-2014 marks Notre Dame Academy's second full year of the 1:1 iPad Initiative. This program has allowed NDA to stay current with educational innovations that promote student achievement and success. We believe this initiative fully supports our mission to educate young women to make a difference in our world. The iPad is used in a variety of ways that fully engages our students in the learning process. Parents are urged to check NDA's website often for information regarding the [1:1 iPad Initiative](#). We look forward to sharing this remarkable innovation with you and your daughters.

STUDENT LIFE

STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

Student Council Mixer

We anticipate a school year filled with many exciting events for our students. This Friday, the Student Council is calling all *Mathletes and Athletes* to the first mixer of the year. The mixer kicks off at 8:00 p.m. and ends at 11:00 p.m. All students are encouraged to attend and to celebrate the start of the school year. Admission is \$5 per person with the proceeds

supporting the Uganda missions and NDA's Student Council.

Student/Parent Handbook

All parents and students are reminded to read the Student/Parent Handbook that is available on the school's website. The policies and procedures as described in the handbook serve as a guide for the whole community and will guide us as we journey together in hope this school year.



COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

Free Practice ACT Test

The juniors will be taking a free practice ACT test next Wednesday, September 28. The test will be administered and scored by ACT Boot Camp. This will give the students the opportunity to have some good practice and feedback about how they performed. All juniors need to report to The St. Joseph Heights Multipurpose Room (located through the back glass doors next to Julie Learning Center) by 7:45 a.m. next Wednesday. The students will take the test and then have lunch and afternoon classes to follow. They need to bring a lunch that day. The tests will be handed back and reviewed the following Wednesday, September 3 at 8:00 a.m. in the Theatre. A parent session will also be offered to get more information about the ACT on Tuesday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. Please contact [Chrissy Monohan](#), Counselor, with any questions or concerns.

► Important Dates

August 22	7:00 p.m. New Student Athletes Meeting
August 23	8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Student Council Mixer
August 28	7:00 p.m. NDA/CCH Theater Information meeting
September 2	Labor Day (No School)
September 6	School Pictures
September 10	7:00 p.m. PTO Meeting
September 11	7:00 p.m. Parent Mini Night

ADVANCEMENT UPDATE ◀

Mark your Calendars:

September 9-13 - Bring a \$20 or more gift card donation to school when you drop off your daughter (or send it with your daughter) and the Advancement Office will provide you breakfast!

September 18 - NDA Autumn Gala Day at Fort Wright Skyline. Drop off a \$20 or more gift card donation to the Fort Wright Skyline and receive a coupon for a free cheese coney. *Need not eat at Skyline that day to participate.



CAFETERIA UPDATE ◀

Information regarding the lunch menu, PayPams Accounts, and Dish Room Volunteers can be found on NDA's website on the [CAFETERIA](#) page. Parents are now able to load money onto their student's cafeteria account.

Dish Room Volunteers

Volunteers are needed daily to help in the dish room in NDA's cafeteria. Shifts are from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. You can sign up to volunteer at [Volunteer Spot](#).

PIANO CLASS AT NDA ◀

Adult Group Piano I

Have you always wanted to learn how to play piano? Did you take lessons as a child but can't remember much more than Middle C? This class is for you! Join other adults in a fun and relaxed, yet learning-filled environment of recreational music making! This weekly class will cover the basics of piano: proper technique, note reading, rhythm, articulation, chords, and more. At the end of the course, students will enjoy a night of good friends, food, and musical fun. Class size is limited; register early to reserve your seat!

Dates/Time: Tuesdays 5:15-6:15 p.m. | September 3 - December 17, 2013

Cost: \$230 (book included)

Registration Deadline: August 27, 2013 (\$30 due at this time)

For more info and to register: Nell Schaffer | schaffern@ndapandas.org | 859-292-1858



Adult Group Piano II

This class is for adults who can already read music and understand basic rhythms, but would like to expand their musical horizon. Students will cover more advanced technique, various key signatures/chords, playing from lead sheets, 12-bar blues, and some improvising. As with the first section, this course will conclude with an evening of friends, food, and musical fun! Due to the nature of this course, it is strongly recommended that students discuss placement with the instructor before registering. Class size is limited; contact the instructor early to reserve your seat!

Dates/Time: Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m. | September 3 - December 17, 2013

Cost: \$200 (students having taken Piano I @ NDA) | \$220 (all other students)

Registration Deadline: August 27, 2013 (\$20 due at this time; all students)

For more info and to register: Nell Schaffer | schaffern@ndapandas.org | 859-292-1858