



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

Students and faculty have returned from our Labor Day break re-energized and ready to continue *Living Our Story of God's Goodness!* I hope you enjoyed the long weekend and are feeling refreshed as well.

Recently, I have spent a great deal of time observing our students and faculty both in and out of the classroom. I continue to be amazed by the quality each member of our NDA community. They are selfless and have an amazing capacity to serve and connect with those around them in authentic and meaningful ways. I am inspired by the work ethic of our students and the high level of discussion at which they are able to communicate. There is no doubt that learning to listen and talk to others is an extremely important way to broaden knowledge, enhance understanding and build community. I commend our faculty on their ability to incite stimulating discussions with our students. I thank you, our parents, for providing such wonderful young women with whom we work; thank you for your continued support and commitment to the work we do.

Speaking of the work we do, you have an opportunity to hear all about it this evening. Please remember that tonight we will have our Gala Gift Gathering Party at 6:00 p.m. and our Parent Mini-Night at 7:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing you! I hope you enjoy becoming more informed about your daughter's classes and meeting with her teachers. Please remember that tomorrow (Thursday) is a 9:00 a.m. start.

I hope you take the time to read below about all of the incredible things taking place at NDA in the coming days. It is wonderful to see our students thoroughly immersed in their education and co-curricular activities. I have to give them kudos for their fantastic Panda spirit as well! Our Student Council celebrated high-five Friday last week which provided some great Friday fun. Our students have also been supporting each other at many of our athletic events. We had a tremendous turnout at the Mercy volleyball game last week. Although the Pandas did not prevail, it was still a huge win for NDA. I received a thank you letter from a Mercy fan who had this to say:

*Our good fortune was not the result of a hard fought victory by Mercy (the team we were supporting), but rather the numerous acts of wonderful sportsmanship that we witnessed that evening by your staff and students. From the greeting with a cookie at the door, to the pre-match prayer by team members, to the national anthem being sung by team members, to the glowing welcome of the Mercy team by the public address announcer to the spirited but well behaved NDA fans (including the student body), we could not have been more impressed.*

*In this day and age of the many negatives that often emerge from sporting events and teams, we thought you might like to know that this Mercy fan and his wife noticed the positives that the Pandas worked so hard on that evening. It is nice to see the principles of the Catholic faith so outwardly present at this event. Good luck in the future, and please know that you have two converted fans here in Louisville.*

This letter means a great deal to me as principal of Notre Dame Academy. I hope it means something special to you too as our partners in educating the young women of NDA to make a difference in the world. The strong presence of our Catholic identity is an important part of *Living Our Story of God's Goodness!*

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



## STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

**Club Orientation** is next Friday, September 18! During this time, all Pandas will learn about the 30+ clubs and activities available at Notre Dame Academy. Clubs and activities are wonderful opportunities for all Pandas to develop their interests, give back to the community, make new friends and have fun. All students are encouraged to take part in the fun by joining at least one club or activity.

### Freshmen Homeroom Representative Elections

If you are a freshman and would like to serve as a Student Council Homeroom Representative, you must attend the information meeting on Wednesday, September 23. The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditorium, and interested students will receive an application for Homeroom Representative. The application must be completed before a student is able to run for office. Elections will take place in October. Looking to develop your leadership skills, guide your homeroom and help facilitate schoolwide activities? Then this is the position for you!

### ALICE Training

Notre Dame Academy has adopted the A.L.I.C.E. program, which trains individuals to respond in violent shooter situations. The A.L.I.C.E. program is one component of our school's comprehensive crisis plan. This Friday during long homeroom, all freshmen will begin their A.L.I.C.E. training and be introduced to this comprehensive lockdown procedure. During Friday's session, which is the first of many to be conducted throughout the year, the freshmen will revisit the importance of preparing for lockdown situations and learn the solutions and options available as identified by the A.L.I.C.E. program.

### Attendance Policy

Notre Dame Academy recognizes that student absences are sometimes necessary. Our attendance policy allows a student to miss 18 class periods for a full credit course and 9 class periods for a half credit course before credit is lost due to missed class time. If a student exceeds the allotted number of days, she will lose credit in that course. The attendance policy is derived from NDA's mission to provide a quality education for each student. Regular class attendance will help each student benefit fully from her experience at Notre Dame Academy.

Extenuating circumstances, such as health issues, chronic illness, or surgery, may prevent a student from regularly attending class and cause her to miss more school than the policy permits. If this is the case, an "Excused Absence Form" must be completed and returned to the school office. The form is due to the office within two weeks of a student's return to school after a prolonged absence. Contact Mrs. Grayson for any questions regarding this school policy.

### Fall Mixer

Don't miss NDA's Fall Mixer, Saturday, September 19 from 8-11 p.m. The cost is \$5 and the theme is Hawaiian! Leis will be available for purchase at school on the September 18 for \$1. Students from any school are welcome!

## NDA PARENT MINI- NIGHT - TONIGHT

- Mini-night begins at 7:00 p.m. and will end around 8:30 p.m.
- NDA's Advancement Department and the Panda Parent Club are hosting a Gala Gift Gathering Party at 6:00 p.m. in Alumnae Hall (more details below).
- Joseph Beth Booksellers will be on campus selling required English books at a discounted price. Cash, check or credit card can be used to purchase the books. (See list of books online [HERE](#).)
- Some used uniforms will be available to pass along in the cafeteria.
- Students will provide parents with a copy (electronic or paper) of their schedule which will guide them throughout the evening.
- Classes will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday due to Parent Mini-Night (both Wednesday and Thursday of next week are late start days).

# You're invited to a Gift Gathering Party for the



**Wednesday, September 9  
at 6:00 p.m.  
in Alumnae Hall**

## **PARENTS,**

Stop by the Autumn Gala Gift Gathering Party before Parent Mini-Night to meet other parents and support NDA! If you RSVP for the Gala before or at this event, you are eligible to win **\$100 Gala Bucks!** You will also have the opportunity to make a pledge to this year's Autumn Gala Panda Paw!

If you bring a gift to donate to the Gala, you will be entered into a drawing for **2 FREE Gala tickets!** Here are some ideas for donations: themed baskets, wine or other spirits, gift cards, tickets to sporting events, theater or concerts.

The Panda Parent Club will provide refreshments for this "friendraiser." We hope to see you there!

## **Raise Your Panda Paw!**



At the Gift Gathering Party, we will begin asking parents to pledge to raise their Panda Paws in support of Notre Dame Academy at this year's Autumn Gala.

Our goal is to once again raise \$20,000 to be used towards the purchase of several items that support 21st Century Learning at NDA. These items are necessary components in expanding our science and technology programs and maintaining NDA's status as a premiere STEM high school. These resources would support many opportunities for NDA students to conduct research and engage in creative and collaborative projects that will expand their knowledge and critical thinking skills.

A few of the items that we are considering are:

- 3D Printer
- Science Computers
- Drone
- Large Format 4 Color Printer
- Standardized Test Prep Support



## **INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE** ◀

### **Leaders in Technology at NDA**

Last week we told you about two NDA students who spent a week this past summer exploring what the possibilities in IT really are. Alenna Fletcher '18 and Jackie Noll '17 both attended INTERalliance Camps to learn first-hand, the vast and exciting career opportunities in technology. Last week, we featured a summary of Jackie Noll's

experience. To read a summary of Alenna Fletcher's INTERalliance camp experience [CLICK HERE](#).



**PANDA  
PARENT  
CLUB**

## **PPC NEWS** ◀

**Parent Mini-Night** - Meet your fellow PPC members at Mini-Night! Representatives from our Panda Parent Club will be available at our upcoming Parent Mini-Night to answer any questions you may have out NDA. We will also tell you about how you can bid on tickets for many of our events at this year's Gala!

## COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀



### Cincinnati NACAC National College Fair

SUNDAY, September 13, 2015

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Duke Energy Convention Center – Downtown

525 Elm Street

Cincinnati, OH 45202

Students can print a bar coded confirmation to be used on site at the fair as an electronic ID. Utilizing this barcode will eliminate the need for students to fill out inquiry cards at the event. They can save time and visit many more schools. Pre-register by going to this website <https://www.gotomyncf.com/Registration/EventSelectForState?stateName=All>.

### Governor's Scholar Program Informational Meeting

An informational meeting for Juniors and anyone else interested in learning more about the Governor's Scholar Program will be held after school on Wednesday September 16 in the NDA Library. The Governor's Scholars Program is a 5-week summer residential program for outstanding high school students in Kentucky who have completed their Junior year. The Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program originated in 1983 as a way to keep the state's "best and brightest" in the Commonwealth to pursue educational and career opportunities, and to develop Kentucky's next generation of civic and economic leaders. The approximately 1,050 students who are selected attend the Governor's Scholars Program, or GSP, on three college campuses without charge. Come learn more about the application process for this amazing opportunity Wednesday September 16 after school in the Library.



### Drug Free Club

Drug Free Club applications are still available in the main office for any students who would like to join. Just complete the form, and return it with your payment to the office! Parents, this is a truly excellent opportunity to support your daughters in their desire to make drug-free choices! Anyone interested in serving as an Officer in our NDA Drug Free Club, please email Mrs. Hildreth: [hildrethk@ndapandas.org](mailto:hildrethk@ndapandas.org).

### DRUG FREE CLUBS OF AMERICA

**FINALLY! A true PREVENTION PLAN for teens to rely on to remain drug free and GET REWARDED for it!**

- Students become DFCA members after passing a simple, confidential drug test.
- Members can rely on testing as an "out" for drug related situations by saying, "I can't, I might get tested".
- Although the test is done at school, only the parents and student receive test results.
- Parents are notified of perfect club moments to talk about drugs.
- Members receive a full color photo ID card that unlocks positive reinforcement of their good choices, and show their cards to local merchants for "rewards" to recognize their drug free lifestyle.
- Retesting of random members is determined by a DFCA computer program and continues throughout the school year.
- As long as members remain drug free, the rewards continue and...

**Cost is only \$35/year...**

**but if you join as a Freshman and pay for 3 years, your 4th/Senior year is Free!!**

### Individual Learning Plan

KHEAA (<https://www.kheaa.com/website/kheaa/home>) provides the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) to help students:

- Learn about careers
- Explore education options
- Track Activities, Service, Work, Achievements, Awards, and References
- Build a Resume

**NDA Juniors** will focus on how to use the ILP to record extracurricular activities, upload files, and explore college options during Long Home Room on Friday, September 12.

**NDA Seniors** will meet at 8am on Wednesday September 23rd to work on Basic Resumes. They can share these resumes with teachers and others who will be writing their college Letters of Recommendation!

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## THE FACE OF GOD ◀

Recently Mr. Tom Richmond asked the students in his Senior Morality class to create a video showing the “Face of God” or where they see God. Students worked very hard and created some amazing videos! Click on the links below to watch a few of them:

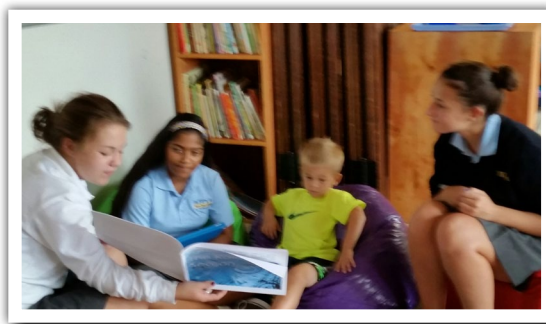
[Jordan Ackerson](#)

[Grace Lubbe](#)

[Sullivan Blackburn](#)

## YOUNG AUTHORS ◀

The freshmen in Ms. Amanda Staggs English classes recently visited Julie Learning Center to read stories that they wrote for the children there!



## MY SUMMER IN BRAZIL ◀

NDA alumna, Brooke Barker '15, spent six weeks in Brazil this summer. She was awarded the Toyota TEMA Community Scholarship to study abroad. She was one of 6 students from the US and 24 students globally chosen by Toyota to study overseas (in the USA, Germany, Brazil, and Japan). Check out Brook's blog about this amazing opportunity [HERE](#).

## NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

### Golf

NDA Golf Pandas came in 5th with a 346 on Saturday in Frankfort. They competed at the Northern Kentucky Team Cup yesterday at Meadowood.

### Cross Country

NDA cross country finished 5th at Ryle meet on Saturday.

### Soccer

Over the weekend, varsity soccer got a 4-1 win over Evansville North who is ranked 8th in Indiana. They then fell to Mount Notre Dame 0-1 in tough battle. JV soccer got a big win over Avon 2-0 and had a tie.

### Volleyball

Volleyball battled in a 5 set loss to Mercy Louisville last week. The freshman and JV also fell to Mercy.

### Intramural Bowling League

Students shouldn't miss the chance to be part of first NDA intramural bowling league. All that is needed is a team of 3. Announcements will be made and emails will be distributed with the online form and all the details (like dates, times, fees, etc). The deadline to signup is Thursday, September 10. The start of the season will be Wednesday, September 16 at Superbowl in Erlanger.

NDA and CCH will be bowling at the same time.

Team structure: 3-person team

Day of week: Wednesday

Start time: Start time is 3:30 (end time depends on speed of play, typically no later than 5:30)

Length of league: 12 weeks Sep 16 thru Dec 2

Location: Erlanger Superbowl

One-time entry fee: \$5 per person is due on 9/16

Weekly cost: \$7.50 per person (covers 3-games and shoe rental fee)

Scores will be tracked and logged so that a weekly statistics sheet can be provided to each team each week.

If interested please sign up by Thursday, September 10.

I've invited you to fill out the form Intramural Bowling Sign Ups. To fill it out, visit:

<https://docs.google.com/a/ndapandas.org/forms/d/1ae4il3yztorO6NFT3W9-laJgFanyrZQ6kaqGUZ5iXxA/viewform?c=0&w=1>

### Important Reminder:

**FORMS AND REGISTRATION FOR ALL WINTER AND SPRING SPORTS ARE DUE THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10th**

**To be in the know about Panda athletics (scores, rosters, updates and more), follow us on twitter at NDA\_athletics!**

## HOST FAMILY NEEDED ◀

Would you like to open your home to an international student? An NDA sophomore from China needs a host family in Northern Kentucky for the rest of the 2015-16 academic year. She is a terrific young lady and would be a wonderful addition to any family. Please contact Katie Caccavari, NDA Director of Admissions, 859-292-1829, if you would like more information. You can also email [caccavarik@ndapandas.org](mailto:caccavarik@ndapandas.org).



## 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.



## 2015-16 College Rep Visits at NDA

Throughout the school year many college representatives visit NDA to speak with students during lunch mods (M/T/Th/F 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Wednesdays 11:12 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) Parents are welcome to come in to speak with the college reps. Below is a list of upcoming visits.

### September

14	Transylvania University
15	Washington University St. Louis
15	Bellarmino University
22	Indiana University Bloomington
25	University of South Carolina
28	Regis University
30	Miami Univeristy Oxford

### October

7	Mount St. Joseph University
9	Vanderbilt University
15	Brescia University
15	University of Louisville
15	Eastern Kentucky University
19	Otterbein University
21	Ohio Northern University
30	Denison University

## Important dates:

September 9	6 p.m. Gala Gift Gathering Party 7-9 p.m. Parent Mini-Night
September 10	Late Start Day
September 11	Mid-Quarter
September 16	Scholarship Breakfast
September 18	Club Orientation Junior Retreat
September 23	NDA & CCH ACT Parent Meeting
September 25	6th Grade Scavenger Hunt
September 26	The Autumn Gala - A Taste of NDA
September 30	Informational Coffee for Prospective Families
October 2	Grandparents's Mass
October 9	First Quarter Ends
October 9, 10, 11	Youth 2000

## COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- NDA HOSTS 11th ANNUAL YOUTH 2000
- SND Open House - September 27
- St. Agnes Weekend
- Chastity Project
- Street Smartz

For a complete list of community news [CLICK HERE](#).

