



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Dear Parents,

Although you may not have had the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving in your traditional way, I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving break. This week we begin our Advent journey lighting the first candle, the “Prophecy Candle,” of our Advent wreath. This is the candle of hope for Advent and it assures us that we can have hope that God will fulfill the prophecies declared in the Old Testament about Jesus. I have spoken to our students each day this week about hope in my live stream morning prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. I have challenged them to be bearers of hope to others and encouraged them to think about what gives life a deep meaning for them.

Next Tuesday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and therefore we will not have school that day. I’m sure our students will enjoy the day off and I hope that they will also find themselves inspired on this special day by our Blessed Mother and her willingness to say “yes” to God.

As you read in our letter on Monday, **we will continue with Remote Learning @ NDA until we return from our Christmas break on January 4, 2021.** While in person learning is the most ideal situation, our goal is to ensure that we provide a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and faculty. When considering the health of our community, we must be mindful of our students’ physical and mental wellness. At this time, we think our students will greatly benefit from less uncertainty in their lives. Our students are engaged in meaningful learning and we believe that a consistent schedule, as planned with Remote Learning @ NDA until January 4, will give them the stability they need to continue to stay healthy and on track academically.

As we move forward, please keep NDA updated on any COVID-19 related issues involving your family. It will be much easier to facilitate a safe and timely return to in person classes if we have the data we need to fully assess our situation in regard to cases of COVID-19 within our NDA community. Also, if you have travel plans between now and January 4, please review the Travel Advisory Information section of our COVID-19 Information web page [HERE](#). There are specific directives from the Diocese regarding travel and they are posted on our COVID-19 Information web page. If your recent travel meets any of the criteria listed in the Travel Advisory, please notify our school nurse, Tina Sizemore, at 859.292.1843 or sizemoret@ndapandas.org.

Dr. Koehl and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your support and flexibility this school year. We have heard from many students and parents this past week and we appreciate all of the positive feedback we have received about Remote Learning @ NDA.

May this holy time of Advent and the coming season of Christmas be filled with peace, hope and many special blessings for you and your family, and may we be constantly reminded of God’s goodness in our lives each day.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



NDA COVID-19 INFORMATION ◀

REMEMBER, the [NDA COVID-19 Information page](#) on the website has many important resources for parents and students:

- Pandas Return to Campus Plan
- Question Submission Link
- NDA COVID-19 Response Chart for Students and Staff
- and more!

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE ◀

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **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, at 859.292.1843 or sizemoret@ndapandas.org or Mrs. McLeod in the front office 859.292.1821 or mcleods@ndapandas.org.
- It is important that your daughter continues to follow COVID-19 mitigation strategies. **PLEASE DISCOURAGE YOUR DAUGHTER FROM GATHERING WITH FRIENDS DURING THIS TIME.**
- If you are planning to travel anytime throughout the holiday season, please review the Travel Advisory Information section of our COVID-19 Information webpage [HERE](#). There are specific directives from the Diocese of Covington regarding travel which are posted on our COVID-19 Information webpage and can also be found on page 13 of the Diocese of [Covington Department of Catholic Schools COVID-19 Return to School Requirements](#).

MAKE GOOD CHOICES! HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

- Symptom Screenings & Health Precautions
- Contact Tracing
- Cleaning and Sanitizing our Campus
- Hand Sanitizing
- Masks
- Social Distancing
- Safety Barriers



Together we can Make a Difference!

As of today, Wednesday, December 2, we have been informed that four of our students have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last week. As per our requirements, those students are in quarantine. We have also been informed that nearly 40 of our students have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Those students are also in quarantine.

We have consulted with the Diocese of Covington about these recent cases. Since we transitioned to Plan 3 of our Pandas Return to School Plan with Remote Learning @ NDA, contact tracing within our NDA community is not necessary. 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. It will be much easier to facilitate a safe and timely return to in person classes if we have the data we need to fully assess our situation in regard to cases of COVID-19 within our NDA community. 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, at 859.292.1843 or sizemoret@ndapandas.org.

STUDENT LIFE

MINDFULNESS MINUTES ◀

Students, be sure to check out your email each day for a Mindfulness Minute from our counselors. We hope this will give everyone some tools to reduce stress and find calm during your days!

Campus Ministry

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS ◀

Advent reminder for students from Mrs. Price:

During this first week of Hope and waiting - I encourage you to find a way to set aside reflection time. You can join us for a decade of the rosary on Tuesday and/or Thursday morning at 8:40 a.m. You can read through the reflections and explanations posted in the student bulletin. Or you can explore the many websites and resources that are out there to help us prepare.

NDA SCIENCE TEACHER PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL JOURNAL ◀

We are blessed with an incredibly talented and dedicated faculty at NDA! An article written by NDA Science teacher Mrs. Molly Proudfit was recently published in the October edition of The American Biology Teacher, the journal for the National Association of Biology Teachers. The article is titled “Sorting Fact From Fiction: Media Literacy in the Biology Classroom” and was published under the Inquiry and Investigations category in the journal. In the article, Mrs. Proudfit proposes a lesson to help students develop media literacy skills, which are necessary across the curriculum and in students’ everyday lives. In the first phase of the lesson, students are presented with a conspiracy theory (flat Earth theory, etc.) and construct media literacy questions to evaluate the claims. In the second phase of the lesson, students apply the questions they have constructed to a pseudo-science claim (climate change is not caused by human actions, fad diets, COVID myths, etc.). You can read Mrs. Proudfit’s article [HERE](#).



SPECIAL GAVEL ISSUE RELEASED ◀

You can read all about why the Notre Dame Academy community is particularly appreciative this holiday season and how our Volleyball Pandas won state in NDA’s fall issue of the Gavel, written by Mr. Rory Glynn’s Publications Class! You can find this “special thankful issue” [HERE](#).





SCIENCE STUDENTS DEBUNK COVID-19 MYTHS ◀

Recently Mrs. Proudfit's honors biology students made posters to debunk myths about COVID as a part of their unit on viruses. Students chose a claim that they had heard or seen on social media and conducted research to investigate the claim. On each poster, students provided evidence to support or refute the claim. Additionally, students were asked to make the poster eye catching and easy to understand for a general audience. Check out the great job these students did [HERE!](#)



SENIOR SWEATSHIRTS ARE IN! ◀

Our seniors received their senior sweatshirts just in time for Thanksgiving! Here is senior Gwyneth Thomas showing off this year's design of this special senior tradition!



BAMBOOTIQUE NEWS ◀

This week's special at NDA's online Bambootique is a free car coaster with any of the following purchases: Puffer Jacket or Vest, NDA Flight Bomber Jacket, Fuzzy Fleece Pullover and Varsity Sherpa. Don't miss this deal at NDA's [online Bambootique!](#)

Alumnae Storyboard

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.](#)

HSPT

High School Placement Test

REGISTRATION

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST (HSPT) SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020 ◀

All incoming freshman students interested in attending Notre Dame Academy must take the High School Placement Test. **As per the Diocese of Covington, this year's HSPT will take place on the original Diocesan-wide testing date: Saturday, December 12, 2020.**

Please click [HERE](#) to access the HSPT registration form. There is a testing fee of \$20.00 that must be paid at the time of test registration. The deadline for registration is Friday, December 4, 2020.

If your daughter tests at another location her results can be sent to Notre Dame Academy; however, PRIORITY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS WHO TAKE THE HSPT AT NOTRE DAME ACADEMY.

If you have any questions regarding the HSPT please contact NDA Director of Admissions Katie Caccavari at 859.292.1829 or caccavarik@ndapandas.org.



LEARN ABOUT AMAZONSMILE AND SUPPORT NDA ◀

Do you shop on Amazon? If so, you should know about AmazonSmile! AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is sign up [HERE](#) and 0.5% of your purchases will be donated to Notre Dame Academy! Thanks for supporting NDA!

SOCIAL DISTANCED CHRISTMAS CONCERT ◀

Congratulations to Mr. Cerimele and Mrs. Geiman on pulling off the first ever outdoor Christmas Concert for our band members and families. It was a wonderfully safe way to get into the Christmas spirit!



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

ANNUAL ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER

If you ordered coupon books to sell for the athletic fundraiser, you should be in the selling phase. **If you have not picked up your coupon books yet please email Myanna Webster at websterm@ndapandas.org to set up a time to pick them up.** You can access the tally sheet and the link to upload it below. **Money for the coupon books is due Friday, January 8, 2021!** If you have any questions regarding the annual athletic fundraiser, please contact NDA Athletic Director, Myanna Webster websterm@ndapandas.org.

Coupon Book Fundraiser Steps

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW

GET BOOKS

- 01** Pick up and sign for your books on **MON 11/23 or TUES 11/24**

SELL BOOKS

- 02** Sell to family and friends \$25/
book.

FILL OUT TALLY SHEET

- 03** [Fill out tally sheet here](#) with customer info including check and cash amounts collected

UPLOAD TALLY SHEET

- 04** [Upload here](#). MUST be an excel or google sheet.

TURN IN MONEY

- 05** Turn in your money marked with name **ON FRIDAY 1/8**

Questions? Email Myanna or Mrs. Colvin!

Sales Tips

**2 NDA COUPONS AVAILABLE
\$10 OF \$50 PURCHASE AT
BAMBOOTIQUE**

**"ASSIGNED" OUT OF UNIFORM
DAY**

**PANDA FAVORITES
REALITY TUESDAYS
BUNCHES OF BOWS
BIGGBY COFFEE
SKYLINE
BLINKERS
MACKENZIE RIVER,
SUBSTATION II
WALT'S**

**SOME COUPONS WILL NOT LIST
ALL FRANCHISE LOCATIONS
HOWEVER, SOME FRANCHISES
MAY HONOR THE COUPONS IF
YOU ASK**

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

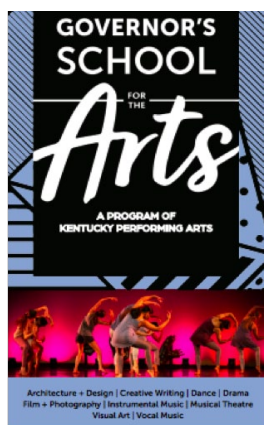


VIRTUAL COUNSELING SESSION ◀

If you would like to have a virtual counseling session please reach out to one of the personal counselors. At this time we are happy to have a google meet with you before/after school, during a study hall, or during Panda Prime Time.

Mrs. Hildreth (hildrethk@ndapandas.org)

Mrs. Maggard (maggarde@ndapandas.org)



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS (GSA) ◀

KY Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) 2020-21

Architecture

Creative Writing

Musical Theater

Visual Art

Instrumental Music

Drama

Film & Photography

Vocal Music

Dance

Meet Your Adjudicators (November through December)

Registration for each Art Form is FREE but REQUIRED. See second page for the [LIST](#).

December 17 - Virtual Info Session: Open Q&A - 4:30 p.m.

A final opportunity to ask questions via webinar (but remember you can contact GSA anytime at gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org) [REGISTRATION FREE but REQUIRED AT THIS LINK](#).

January 10, 2021 - GSA 20210 Application due by 11:59 p.m.

Applicants are encouraged to upload their applications before this date. GSA offices will not be staffed over the weekend and we will not be accessible to answer questions after Jan. 8th.

February 19, 2021 - GSA 2021 Finalists Announced

All applicants will be notified of whether they have advanced to the final round of adjudication.



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR ENTREPRENEURS (GSE) APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN! ◀

Click to [Learn more and apply to GSE](#), which will take place on the campus of Northern KY University June 6-26, 2021.

Apply between Nov. 16, 2020 and January 25, 2021. Current 9th, 10th, and 11th-grade students can apply.

GSE is hosting virtual information sessions this fall for prospective applicants and their families.

Click to [REGISTER for Info Sessions](#)



DRUG FREE CLUB ◀

Since we are on Remote Learning, Drug Free Club Test Kits have been mailed to the Parents/Guardians of our **440 club members**. These kits have all the detailed directions and supplies necessary for parents/guardians to administer the drug test with their student(s) at home. Completion of these actions sets into motion the making and printing of the DFCA Student ID cards, which will be mailed directly to members' homes. One thing of vital importance through this whole process is correct addresses, so please notify Mrs. Hildreth if your address changes.

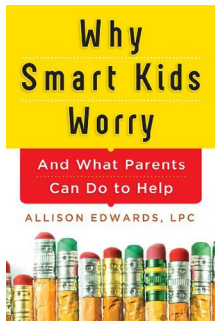


GRIEF SUPPORT ◀

Grief Support Groups will be offered for NDA students who have experienced the death of a loved one. Fernside, a nationally acclaimed grief center for children will be conducting these virtual support group sessions in conjunction with NDA. Please contact Mrs. Hildreth for more information if you think your daughter would benefit from this support.

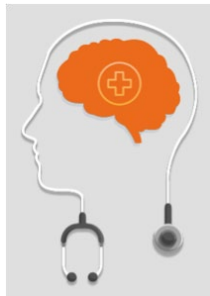
RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS ◀

NDA Parent Toolbox



Why Smart Kids Worry: And What Parents Can Do to Help

Allison Edwards guides through the mental and emotional process of where your child's fears come from, why they are hard to move past, how smart kids think differently, and offers fifteen specially designed tools help smart kids manage their fears, anxieties.



Destigmatize Your Discourse How to Talk About Addiction

The negative perceptions held against people living with substance use disorders (SUDs) can impact the quality of healthcare they receive, reduce their willingness to seek treatment, and cause others to view them negatively. [HERE](#) are 3 simple steps you can take and terms to use that can improve our discourse.



1N5 is a local mental health nonprofit working to engage our local community.

They provide a variety of FREE opportunities to promote mental wellness and have meaningful impact. Upcoming 1N5 events:



- [Virtual Mental Health Retreat for Asian American students](#) on Dec. 12 from 1-4pm. Register to hear Asian speakers, participate in fun activities, open dialogue and receive a free mystery package.
- [Coping Skills for the 2020 Holiday Season](#)
- [Managing Grief and Loss During COVID](#)
- [Articles](#) to help all of us understand, adapt, address and cope with our mental health concerns during this time



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COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- Live the Love Mother Daughter Program
- Cafeteria Staff Needed
- Resources to Support Learning for parents, educators, & kids of all ages
- Help Wanted: School Cafeteria Managers and School Cafeteria Staff

▶ Important dates

December 8	No School - Immaculate Conception
December 9	Christmas Fun
December 12	HSPT and ACT at NDA
December 18	2nd Quarter Ends
December 21	Christmas Break Begins
January 4	In Person Classes Resume