



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

April 30, 2025

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope everyone had a great Easter break. It's good to be back and moving into the final stretch of the school year. There's a lot ahead—celebrations, exams, Arts Fest, and graduation—but also plenty of time to stay grounded in what matters most.

This week at NDA, we're honoring the life of Pope Francis in many special ways. On Tuesday morning, Mass was offered in his memory, and tomorrow we'll gather in the chapel to pray a decade of the rosary. His portrait now hangs in our front hallway as a daily reminder of his example of faith, humility, and love.

Congratulations to our Class of 2025 Valedictorian, Ashley Neltner, and Salutatorian, Emma White. We're proud of all they've accomplished in their time at NDA.

On Sunday, our seniors took the field for the Orange and White Flag Football Game against St. Ursula. It was a perfect day—and a big win (34–6). Most importantly, it raised money for childhood cancer research. Thank you to everyone who made the day such a success.

Lastly, many of us have been thinking about how we support our students in a world full of distractions. The book *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt has sparked some valuable conversation around technology use and mental health. We're looking into possible updates to our cell phone policy for next year and hope to hear from families in the weeks ahead.

Thanks for all you do to support NDA. Have a great week!

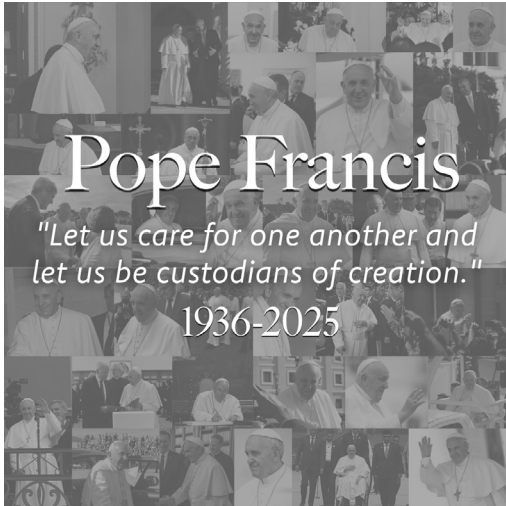
In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



Have a great day and make good choices!

CAMPUS MINISTRY



HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF POPE FRANCIS REMEMBERING POPE FRANCIS

NDA is offering several ways for our students to remember Pope Francis and join in communal prayers for the repose of his soul. On Tuesday, April 29 the 7:20 a.m. mass was said in Remembrance of Pope Francis and on Thursday, May 1 we will offer the decade of the rosary at 7:45 a.m. in the chapel. All who enter the building are greeted with a portrait of Pope Francis surrounded by black bunting and flowers as a way to remember him in our daily prayers during these days of mourning.

JOIN US!

MAY LITURGIES:

- A decade of the Rosary will be prayed at 7:45 a.m. on May 1, 5, 8, 12, and 15.
- We will celebrate mass in the chapel at 7:20 a.m. on May 6, 9, 13 and 16.
- We will have our final all school mass on Friday, May 2 at 9:30 a.m. in the gym to celebrate our Annual May Crowning.
- The Senior Baccalaureate Mass will be held on Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Agnes.



Student Life



Ashley Neltner



Emma White

CONGRATULATIONS

NDA ANNOUNCES CLASS OF 2025 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Notre Dame Academy is proud to announce the Class of 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian:

Valedictorian: Ashley Neltner

Salutatorian: Emma White

Both students have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and dedication throughout their time at NDA. Congratulations Ashley and Emma!

**VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!**

TIME TO VOTE!

LET'S HONOR OUR ATHLETES

Please be sure to vote for our Athletes of the Week. You can vote [here!](#) Be sure to vote from your phones and vote once every hour.

Sydney Sheely – She went 2-for-2 with four RBIs and three runs scored in a win over St. Henry.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

THE ANNUAL ORANGE AND WHITE GAME

On Sunday, our senior students competed against some senior St. Ursula Bulldawgs in the annual Orange and White Flag Football Game. It was a gorgeous day for football and supporting an amazing cause. Our PaNDAs brought home the victory defeating the Dawgs 34 to 6. The offense and defense played exceptionally well as they scored points while playing both sides of the ball. It was a great event and one that many of our students look forward to when they will finally get to play as Seniors. Thank you to Mrs. Kroger and Ms. Hilbert for organizing the logistics of everything and to Mr. Strickley and Mr. Cerimele for prepping our football team for victory. Watch for the final count of how much money was raised to benefit Childhood Cancer Research through Children's Hospital.





ORANGE AND WHITE



IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ

THE ANXIOUS GENERATION BY JONATHAN HAIDT CONSIDERING POLICY CHANGE

Earlier this semester, the author of *The Anxious Generation* was available for a presentation with various administrators from the greater Cincinnati area. He spoke about his text and the research that he has discovered regarding the detriments of students using cell phones and social media. The current cell phone policy at NDA is that students must have their phones off and away from 8-3, however we know that this is not foolproof. We are considering the implementation of a new policy for the upcoming school year. To prepare for a change, we are inviting students, parents, staff, and faculty to read this book and view the attached presentation. Should you be interested in providing feedback after reviewing the materials mentioned, please watch upcoming Panda Press Weekly's for more information. We hope to provide forums where the text and presentation will be discussed and parents can provide feedback regarding policy review and various viewpoints.

The presentation by the author is linked [here](#) and is very eye opening in and of itself.

Save the Date!

TUESDAY, MAY 13

ACADEMIC AWARDS

We will celebrate the achievements of our many freshmen, sophomores, and juniors on Tuesday, May 13 from 7 until 8:30 p.m. in the Theatre. Save the date! Students will be notified prior to the event if they will receive an award. Awards are given out for Academic Excellence, Governor's Scholars Program, departmental awards, etc.

SENIOR AP STUDENTS SHINE THE GREAT DEBATE

The AP Language and Composition classes participated in the second annual Great Debate in their classes throughout the past few weeks. The students had to affirm or refute the following statement: Social media is beneficial to democratic values.

A variety of different stances on a broad topic brought about many unique perspectives. A winner was crowned from each section of the AP courses and those winning teams moved on to "The Great Debate."

From AP Language and Composition - Section 1: Hannan Dusing and Ella Kruze - debating the negative.

From AP Language and Composition - Section 2: Chloe Dunham and Emma White - debating the affirmative.

Chloe and Emma ended up winning by a small margin in front of a captive and interested audience. It was a great way to start the day and we look forward to seeing how these ladies will use their talents in the future.





STU CO NEWS

GRADE LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2025-2026 ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to the following students who were elected as grade level representatives for the 2025-2026 school year.

Junior Representatives

Alexis Adbrabbo
Elsie Hanks
Ruth Maier
Emma Miller
Amelia Stallard

Sophomore Representatives

Finleigh Anderson
Emma Boyce
Ashtyn Dirks
Lauren Mba
Adie Voelker



DELICIOUS NEWS!

WEEKLY LUNCH MENU

A hot lunch and salad bar will be available for purchase each day at our NDA cafeteria. You can find a menu price sheet as well as this week's lunch menu [HERE](#).



CONGRATULATIONS!

STUDENTS HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS GOVERNOR'S PROGRAM SELECTIONS

Notre Dame Academy proudly announces that six students have been selected for the 2025 Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program (GSP), a highly competitive five-week summer residential program that promotes academic and personal development for outstanding Kentucky high school students. NDA's Governor's Scholars are: Linda France, Jacie Hail, Lucie Kiely, Julia Von Waldhe Mendez, Liliana Deters, and Corryn Kohls.

In addition, three NDA students have been named alternates for the 2025 Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts (GSA), a three-week program that cultivates artistic excellence. Congratulations to Melissa Geiman (Visual Arts), Ryan Scheiner (Musical Theater), and Addyson Wuellner (Creative Writing) on this honor.

Notre Dame Academy is also pleased to recognize Riley Puglisi and Ella Nienaber, who were selected for the 2025 Kentucky Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE), a transformative experience that encourages innovation and business creation among high school students.

These achievements reflect the passion, talent, and leadership of our students. We are proud of their accomplishments and the positive impact they continue to make.



HAPPY (BELATED) BIRTHDAY, ROME!

FELICEM DIEM NATALEM, O ROMA!

On Monday, the Latin classes had their annual celebration of Rome's birthday, albeit about a week late due to spring break. Legend has it that the city of Rome was founded by Romulus on April 21st, 753 BC. Each year, celebrations take place on this date all around Italy, and parades around the Colosseum, gladiator reenactments, and assorted other celebratory events take place in Rome to commemorate the day.



This year, Rome turned 2,778 years old! (and still lookin' good!). The Latin classes decorated cookie cakes, watched some footage of this year's reenactments and parades outside the Colosseum, and read about the historical importance of this date for Rome and the annual celebration in Italy, called Natale di Roma.

It was a fun way for the classes to honor Rome's legacy together and start off the last month of school strong.



SND JULY 4TH RAFFLE

A SPECIAL LETTER FROM SR. PAUL ANN HANNEKEN!

You may already know this, that on Wednesday, May 7, the girls will have a dress down day for the Sisters July 4th raffle. The tickets are \$5.00 each and the prizes are \$5,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000. Since this is the last celebration of our July 4th Festival, we thought you may want to buy some tickets also.

You can send the money with your daughter or send the money to me and I will write out the chances for you. Thanks for helping us make this the BEST July 4th ever!



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
Bambootique

NDA BAMBOOTIQUE

PANDA SPIRIT WEAR

Get some end of the year deals at the Bambootique! Shop online [HERE](#).

PLEASE NOTE!

REPORTING ABSENCES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

We have an attendance email for parents to call in a sick child or if a student is leaving early from school. Please use this email if your daughter is sick or needs to leave school early: attendance@ndapandas.org. Remember you can always call the school office with any questions 859-261-4300.

Attention Seniors



ATTENTION SENIOR PARENTS YEARBOOK NEWS

* Senior parents! You can create recognition ads for your daughter for the 2025 NDA Yearbook beginning Thursday through June 7. Visit [Jostens.com](https://jostens.com), click "My School Store" and select Notre Dame Academy to get started. Ads are easy and fun to create and start at just \$75. .



SENIOR GRADE LEVEL INFORMATION EXCITING EVENTS AHEAD!

Senior year is full of unforgettable moments, and there's a fantastic lineup of events coming up for the Class of 2024-25! From special dances to graduation ceremonies, there's something for every senior to look forward to. Check out the full list of events and details on our website at the Senior Grade Level Information Page [HERE](#).

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SENIORS GRADUATION INFORMATION

Attention Seniors and Senior Parents: Fourth quarter is just around the corner which means graduation is nearing! Mark your calendars for the following dates -

- May 5 - 16 - AP Exams (specific schedule to come soon)
- May 6 - Academic Signing @ 4:15 p.m. - Theatre
- May 7 OR 9 - Senior Pancakes - Theatre Lot (students only)
- May 14 - Senior Luncheon @ 12:00 p.m. - Alumnae Hall, Theater, Auditorium (students only)
- May 14 - Senior Sendoff @ 2:00 p.m. - Auditorium (students only)
- May 15 and May 16 - Senior Exams
- May 21 - Graduation practice at NDA @ 12:30 p.m.
- May 22 - Graduation practice at NKYCC @ 8:30 a.m.
- May 22 - Baccalaureate Mass at St. Agnes @ 7:00 p.m. (students and families)
- May 23 - Senior Breakfast at Receptions in Erlanger @ 8:30 a.m. (students and guardians)
- May 23 - Graduation at Northern Kentucky Convention Center @ 4:00 p.m. (ticket amount TBD)

A more detailed letter will be sent in the coming weeks, but we wanted to get these dates to you as soon as possible. You won't want to miss a thing! Seniors will gather during homeroom also in the coming weeks to learn a bit more about graduation.

INFO COMING... SENIOR BREAKFAST

Please watch your email for information about the Senior Breakfast and the Cognito form which will allow parents to register for the event. It will be held on May 23 at 8:30 at Receptions. The cost is \$30 per parent, the students' cost has already been covered. The registration will be sent to parents, students, will be published in the Padlet, and will be published in the Panda Press next week as well. Stay tuned!!

Attention
Class of 2025!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2025-26 CALENDAR NEWS

The academic calendar for next year is being finalized and will be shared with the departments this week. The academic calendar for next year is being finalized and will be shared with the departments this week. The “No School” calendar is located in the blue table below. If you have specific questions, feel free to contact the office staff.



Important Dates for 2025-26!

2025 - 2026 - Summer Dates / Back to School Dates

Week of July 28 - iPad	Orientation for Incoming Freshmen
August 4 (morning) -	Freshmen Bridge
August 5 (morning) -	Freshmen Bridge
August 6 (morning) -	Freshmen Bridge
August 7 (morning) -	Freshmen Bridge
August 7 (evening) -	Parent Information Night (all grade levels)
August 8 (9-12:00) -	Freshmen Orientation

NEW EVENT! SAVE THE DATE!

Class of 2029 PaNDAs! Mark your calendar for the afternoon of Friday, August 8 for the Class of 2029 PaNDA FunFest! This event (that is just for our incoming freshmen) will begin immediately after Freshman Orientation and will start with lunch (provided by NDA), followed by an afternoon of fun, games, and entertainment! This will be a GREAT chance to get to know your classmates better and celebrate the Class of 2029! More details will follow as we finalize the schedule this summer. Stay tuned!

August 12	First Day of School
January 5	School Resumes (after Christmas)
April 13	School Resumes (after Spring Break)
May 22	Last Day of School
May 22	Graduation

No School Dates 2025-2026

No School Dates 2025-2026

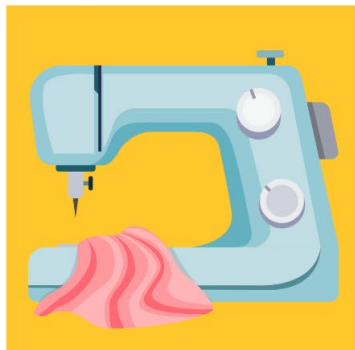
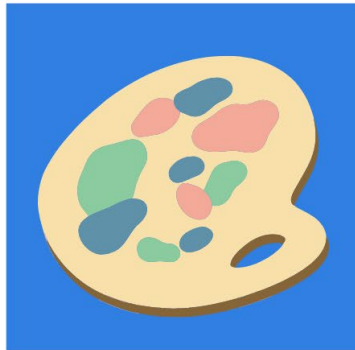
August 15 Feast of Assumption
September 1 Labor Day
October 9 PD Day - PD for Faculty
October 10 PD Day
November 26 PD Day
November 27 Thanksgiving Break
November 28 Thanksgiving Break
December 8 Immaculate Conception
December 22 Christmas Break
January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 16 Presidents' Day
March 13 PD Day
April 2 - April 12 Easter Break

FINE ARTS

CELEBRATE THE ARTS AT NDA

JOIN US FOR NDA'S ARTS FEST!

Celebrate the creativity and talent of our students at Arts Fest on May 15 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at NDA! Enjoy an evening filled with music, movement, and visual artistry. Don't miss this showcase of artistic excellence at NDA. For event planning purposes, please register for the event [here](#).



FREE EVENT. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, PLEASE REGISTER.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Track -

Big congratulations to our Track and Field team for winning the 2025 Division 1 NKAC Conference Championships last night! The team had individual champions in several events: Shot Put (Ella Goetz and Sophia Gibson), 4x100 Relay (Sadie Yapp, Kate Resing, Ella Long, Addi Frondorf), Shuttle Hurdles Relay (Frances Maier, Sabrina Lemma, Addi Lawrie, Kate Resing), Sprint Medley Relay (Sadie Yapp, Ella Long, Addi Frondorf, Kate Blettner), Distance Medley Relay (Cam Kirtley, Frances Maier, Tessa Nader, Norah Barker) and the 4x400 Relay (Addi Frondorf, Ella Petzelt, Cam Kirtley, Kate Blettner). Also special congratulations to our Shuttle Hurdles Relay and Distance Medley Relay for breaking school records! Also thank you to everyone who came out to support the team last night!

Archery -

Congratulations to Ava Boertlein who represented Notre Dame Academy at the KHSAA Tournament last Thursday. She had a great day where she shot a 280 and finished 60th out of 296 girls! She was the 3rd highest girl from the Northern Kentucky area!

Softball -

Softball had a great game against district opponent Beechwood where they won 15 - 1, sending their record to 7-2.

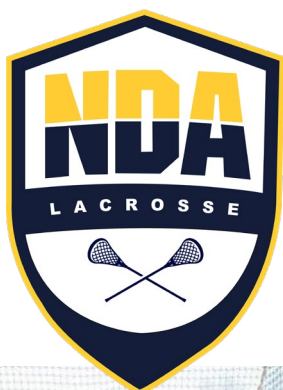
Lacrosse

Come celebrate our incredible Lacrosse Seniors this Friday evening, May 2. Our JV game will begin at 5:30 and Senior festivities are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Special Honors -

Hayley Pelstring has been named as a First String member while Cami Norris was named as a Honorable Mention to the 2025 Cincinnati Enquirer Winter All Stars

Additionally we had several people nominated for the 2025 High School Sports awards Live Show to be held on 6/18.



Archery - Ava Boertlein

Basketball - Maya Lawrie

Bowling - Hayley Pelstring

Swimming and Diving - Sadie Harris, Clare Herfel and Liv Wallace

Golf - Didi Jirdamkerng

Soccer - Megan McGraw

Volleyball - Julia Grace and Ava Tilden

FROM THE DESK OF THE
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR CONTINUED

Golf Outing -

The 27th Annual Notre Dame Academy Athletic Department Golf Outing will be on June 6th at Kenton County. This outing supports all athletic teams at Notre Dame and we need your support, through Sponsorships! Please consider a tee sign (\$100) or a personalized flag 9\$250) with your Notre Dame Student or business displayed on it! For those of you who golf, come out and enjoy the day with us. We offer a 18 hole event and a 9 hole FUN event for you too!



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

**ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT
GOLF OUTING**



Kenton County Golf Course

6 JUNE, 2025

18 HOLES - 8AM - \$150

9 HOLES - 10AM - \$90



Scan the QR
to register!

ADVANCING THE MISSION



LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR NDA!

SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date! Notre Dame Academy's Light the Night for NDA is set for October 4 from 6pm–10 p.m. at The Madison Event Center. This unforgettable evening is our largest fundraiser of the year, supporting the students and mission of NDA. Mark your calendars. If you want to get involved or help support please reach out to Myanna Webster at websterm@ndapandas.org or one of our chairs, Tracy Stacy, Laura Mauller or Heather Ramsey.

Senior Luncheon

CLASS OF 2025

SENIOR LUNCHEON

The Alumnae Office hosts a luncheon for the soon to be graduating seniors to welcome them as our newest alumnae. Seniors please complete [this FORM](#) with your lunch selection by this Friday, May 2. Thank you for your cooperation! If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mosley at MosleyL@ndapandas.org.



ATTENTION ALUMNAE

GIRLS' SCHOOLS UNITE

Girls' Schools Unite is coming up May 5–7! This friendly fundraising competition among the Catholic all-girls high schools in the area focuses on building support through alumnae participation in the Annual Fund. Every gift, no matter the size, helps empower our students and strengthens the NDA community. Encourage the Notre Dame women in your life to give and get their class on the leaderboard. Donate here:

<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/NDAGSU>



SHARING OUR Community News

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

- Tech Recycling

Important dates

May 2	May Crowning Mass Happy Cafeteria Workers Day!! Food Truck Day
May 4	Spring Band Concert - 3:30 p.m Alumnae Hall
May 5	Faculty/Staff Appreciation Week begins
May 6	Academic Signing in Alumnae Hall at 4:15 p.m.
May 7	SND 4th of July Out of Uniform Raffle Sale
May 8	Sips and Stems- Alumnae Hall
May 10	Senior Dinner Dance- Auditorium/Cafeteria
May 12	Faculty Send Off
May 13	Seniors - Last Day of Classes Academic Awards - Auditorium
May 14	Senior Luncheon Senior Send off - Auditorium
May 15	Senior Exams NDA Arts Fest 5:30 p.m.
May 22	Last Day of School Baccalaureate Mass - St. Agnes
May 23	Senior Breakfast - Receptions Graduation