



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

January 7, 2026

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Panda Families,

Welcome back and happy new year! I hope your Christmas break was filled with rest, joy and meaningful time with family and friends. As we begin this new chapter of the school year together, it has been a joy to welcome our students back to campus and feel the energy and spirit they bring to our community.

January is always a time of renewal at Notre Dame Academy. It is a season to refocus, set goals and recommit ourselves to the values that guide us. As a faith community, we begin the year grounded in prayer and gratitude, asking God to bless the months ahead and guide our students as they grow academically, spiritually and personally.

At NDA, the safety and well-being of our students is always our top priority. This week, students participated in a strategic thinking exercise during homeroom that encouraged thoughtful decision-making in a variety of scenarios. These conversations are part of our ongoing commitment to regularly review safety protocols, practice preparedness and help our students respond with calm, confidence and care for one another.

We are deeply grateful for the strong systems in place that support this work, including our School Resource Officer and our Crisis Management Team, made up of skilled and dedicated individuals who bring a wide range of expertise to keeping our campus safe. Their collaboration, preparation and care allow us to remain vigilant while maintaining a nurturing and supportive environment for our students.

In the weeks ahead, our students will continue to engage in important moments of faith formation, service and student life, from Junior Service and Senior Retreat to upcoming liturgies and community celebrations. These experiences are central to who we are as a school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame and help our young women live out our mission in meaningful ways.

Thank you for your continued partnership, support and trust. Together, we look ahead with hope and confidence as we continue to form young women who *Walk Humbly, Serve Boldly and Shine with Grace*.

Walk in Faith,

Mrs. Lisa Timmerding

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



Walk in Faith!

FAITH IN ACTION



FAITH FORMATION

UPCOMING LITURGIES

We will celebrate the New Year on Friday during an all school mass at 9:30 a.m. in the gym.

We will pray a decade of the rosary at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, January 8 and Monday, January 12.

We will celebrate mass at 7:20 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13.



SERVING OTHERS

LIVING THE MISSION OF NDA!

JUNIOR SERVICE

Please keep our Juniors in your prayers as they begin their service work this week. The Junior Service Program, which has been in place for 51 years here at NDA, is a tradition that sends our juniors into the community every week. They serve at the same location each week, building relationships and giving back.



KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS

SENIOR RETREAT

Our second senior retreat takes place next week, January 14-16. Please keep these 41 seniors and their team members in your prayers. If your daughter is on the senior retreat and you did not receive an email from Mrs. Price on Dec 10 with more information - please email Mrs. Price at priceb@ndapandas.org so that the information can be shared with you.

Student Life



STRATEGIZING SCENARIOS

KEEPING OUR PANDAS SAFE

This week, students participated in a Critical Thinking Run-Hide-Fight activity during homeroom using our Scenario™ strategic thinking exercise. By combining locations, situations and changing conditions, students worked through the safest and healthiest responses based on their training and the school's emergency procedures.

The activity encouraged thoughtful discussion, problem-solving and preparedness, helping our girls practice making sound decisions in a variety of situations. We are grateful to our faculty and staff for guiding these conversations and supporting ongoing safety review for our students.



HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

FALL 2026 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

NDA is once again going to host international students from our sister school in Germany (Liebfrauenschule Vechta) for a portion of the 2026 fall semester. Four students will be experiencing the NDA Life for about 10 weeks. The girls would arrive in Mid-October and depart in the middle of December. These students speak English very well and are screened thoroughly by their school before they are allowed to apply for this exchange program. Please call or email Sammie Bezold, Foreign Exchange Program Coordinator, at bezolds@ndapandas.org/859-292-1884, if you would be interested in more information about this opportunity. Your reply is not a commitment.



RESCHEDULING INFORMATION

SILVER BELLS

Silver Bells is back on the calendar and will take place this Saturday, January 10. Thank you to our families and students for your understanding and flexibility when the dance was postponed last week.

Because this new date overlaps with winter sports commitments, we are working to make appropriate accommodations for our student swimmers.

We appreciate your patience and continued support and look forward to a wonderful Silver Bells celebration.

VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

IT'S TIME TO VOTE PANDAS!

Please vote below for our Athlete of the Week Nominee:

Haley Pelstring, bowling – She had games of 201 and 191 in a win over Beechwood.

Emma Holtzapfel, basketball – The senior averaged 17.8 points in four games over the last two weeks, including a school-record 35 points in a win over Dixie Heights. She also tied a school record with nine three-pointers.

[Here is the link.](#)

Deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. You can vote once per hour. Turn your WiFi off to ensure your vote counts!

Thank you for helping to celebrate our PaNDAs who are using their gifts and talents so well.



IMPORTANT REMINDER

2026-27 FINANCIAL AID & WORK STUDY APPLICATION

At Notre Dame Academy, we are committed to partnering with any family whose daughter could benefit from an NDA education. For the 2025-26 school year, NDA provided \$944,297 in financial assistance and tuition allowances, demonstrating our strong commitment to accessibility and our continued efforts to keep tuition increases to a minimum without sacrificing quality or opportunity.

To better serve our families and provide award decisions earlier in the enrollment process, we have moved this year's application deadline to February 28, 2026.

FACTS financial aid and work study applications opened December 15, and families may use their 2024 tax information when applying.

For questions or assistance, please contact Mr. Cliff Ludwig, CFO, at 859-292-1844.



CSW TALENT SHOW!

CALLING ALL NDA PANDAS!

Get ready for Catholic Schools Week's "Pandas Got Talent" Showcase! From singing and dancing to comedy, music, and beyond—this is your moment to shine. Join us for a fun-filled event on Friday, January 30 during school time celebrating the incredible talent that makes NDA so special. Interested in performing? Be sure to fill out the Google Form linked here: [Pandas Got Talent Registration Form.](#) It's sure to be a great time highlighting all the amazing gifts of our Pandas!



IMPORTANT UPDATE

YEARBOOK NEWS

NDA's 2025 yearbook, "Let 'Em Know", should arrive at the end of the month. If you did not order a copy and would like one, we order some extra copies. If you WANT TO want to check if you ordered, you can email glynnr@ndapandas.org! And check back for purchase info on our 2026

JOIN US

SHOW YOUR PANDA SPIRIT!

Come out and support our Pandas — both on the court and in the stands!

The NDA Band will be bringing the energy to a few of our upcoming basketball games. Come out and hear them play and help cheer on our Basketball Pandas as well on the following dates:

Friday, January 9 | 7–9 p.m. | NDA

Friday, February 20 | 7–9 p.m. | NDA

March 7–15 | KHSAA Girls Basketball Tournament at NKU (Games One and Three), with potential additional performances at Rupp Arena when the Pandas advance!

Let's fill the gym and show our Panda pride!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

UNIFORM SKIRT REMINDER

We appreciate the improvement we are beginning to see as students work to take greater pride in their uniforms and in representing Notre Dame Academy well. While progress has been made, we still have a long way to go in ensuring that uniform skirts are consistently in compliance with our dress code policy.

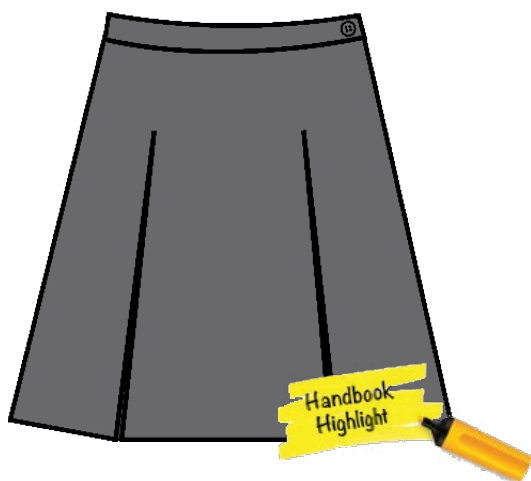
Rolling skirts or leaving hems unadjusted continues to be an issue, and we are asking for parent support in helping us address this. Please take time this week to check your daughter's uniform skirt and ensure that it meets the required length, especially as we prepare to gather as a community for Mass on Friday.

Taking pride in a neat, appropriate uniform helps create a positive and respectful school environment for all. Students who are not in compliance will continue to receive warnings, and further action may follow if adjustments are not made.

Uniform Expectations from Student/Parent Handbook

The handbook states - (page 25)

*The bottom of the skirt should not be higher than the mid-thigh and should be of an acceptable and tasteful length. *This is at the discretion of the female staff and administration.*





STUDENTS INVITED TO SERVE

NDA'S FIRST-EVER MUSTARD SEED MISSION TRIP

Registration is now open for NDA's first-ever Mustard Seed Mission Trip. Join us for a week of service, community, and spiritual growth as we accompany and serve some of the most vulnerable communities.

Dates: May 30 through June 6, 2026

Location: Moca, Dominican Republic

Cost: \$1,200 (fundraised) plus airfare (approximately \$800)

Sign Up: 2026 Mustard Seed Mission Trip Registration

This opportunity is open to all students 15 and older, including current seniors.

Mustard Seed Communities partners with vulnerable populations around the world, offering hope, support, and practical assistance to those most in need. This experience is more than travel — it is an invitation to make a lasting impact and to encounter God's heart for the vulnerable.

Spaces are limited. Please email [Ms. Dooling](#) with any questions.

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY IS HEADING TO SPAIN & PORTUGAL IN JUNE 2027

Experience the history, art, and beauty of the Iberian Peninsula with your classmates and NDA faculty chaperones as you journey from Lisbon to Barcelona. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to explore two amazing countries in one unforgettable trip!

Attendance at an info meeting isn't required — everyone's welcome!

Click [here](#) to learn more and register.

Any questions? Contact [Ms. Dooling](#) for more details.



40%
OFF

BIG
Winter
SALE

Biggest sale of the year!
January 7-10, 2026
Save 40% off everything



SAVE 40% ON EVERY ITEM

SCHOOLBELLES SALE

Mark your calendars for today, January 7 through January 10. [Schoolbelles](#) is offering an incredible 40% off everything — their highest discount of the entire year. Every item is included, from daily uniform essentials to outerwear and accessories.



DELICIOUS NEWS LUNCH MENU

This week's lunch menu and the cafeteria price sheet are available [HERE](#) for easy reference. Families are encouraged to check the menu often to help students plan ahead for meals they'll enjoy.

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.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
Bambootique

PANDA PRIDE BAMBOOTIQUE SPIRIT WEAR SHOP

Looking to refresh your Panda wardrobe in 2026? Check out Bambootique, Notre Dame Academy's online spirit wear shop, for a great selection of NDA apparel and accessories for students, parents and fans. From cozy favorites to everyday essentials, there's something for everyone to show their Panda pride all year long.

Visit the Bambootique and shop today in person or [ONLINE](#). It's perfect for game days, school events and supporting the Pandas wherever you go!



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR PANDA ATHLETICS



Bowling

Our NDA Pandas competed at the Back to School Bash High School Bowling Tournament with both Varsity and Freshman teams participating.

Girls bowled two individual games followed by four Baker games to determine seeding for bracket play after a lunch break. The Varsity team seeded No. 2 out of 32 teams.

Alyssa led the way with games of 179 and 226, averaging 202.5, earning a spot on the All-Tournament Team with the second-highest average of the day.

Varsity advanced to the Top 16 in bracket play but dropped two of three Baker games to St. Ursula.

Our Freshman team continues to improve with each event. All are new bowlers, and their growth has been impressive. These Pandas are ones to watch.

Great start to the new year, Pandas!



Archery

Upcoming schedule:

This week: Bullseye competition at Scott High School

January 23 and 24: NDA will host the 2nd Annual Christine Marie Bartel Memorial 3D Tournament on campus

Basketball

On Friday, January 2, NDA defeated Dixie Heights High School. Emma Holtzapfel had a historic night, breaking the single-game scoring record with 35 points and tying the single-game three-point record with nine. The game also celebrated Alumnae Night, honoring former players.

Last night, the Pandas dropped a hard-fought contest against Region 10 powerhouse Simon Kenton.

Next up: NDA hosts Scott High School on Friday, January 9, with games at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. This will also be Grade School Night.

Please be sure to vote for our Pandas of the Week!





Swim and Dive

This week, the AquaPandas host their 3rd Annual Catholic School Invitational at St. Xavier High School.

Past Event Update: Highlands Dual Meet

Friday, December 19 | Silverlake

Following their Christmas party, the AquaPandas defeated Highlands in a dual meet at Silverlake, winning all three relays and all but one individual event.

Top Three Individual Finishers:

Reaghan Connelly, Sr.: 2nd – 100 breast

Marisa Kent, Sr.: 3rd – 100 back

Danaka Tucker, Sr.: 3rd – 100 fly; 1st – 500 free

Liv Wallace, Sr.: 2nd – 50 free; 1st – 100 back

Abby Carnes, Jr.: 1st – 50 free; 2nd – 100 free

Makayla Kleman, Jr.: 3rd – 200 free; 2nd – 500 free

Caroline Gollar, So.: 3rd – 100 breast

McKenna Bien, So.: 1st – 200 IM; 1st – 100 free

Clare Herfel, So.: 1st – 200 free; 1st – 100 fly

Top Three Relays:

200 medley relay

1st: Carnes, Connelly, Tucker, Wallace

3rd: Kent, Gollar, Elsie Hanks, Jr., Peyton Quinn, Sr.

200 free relay

1st: McKenna Bien, Carnes, Quinn, Herfel

3rd: Savannah Bien, Jr., Gollar, Connelly, Kleman

400 free relay

1st: McKenna Bien, Wallace, Tucker, Herfel

3rd: Kent, Savannah Bien, Hanks, Kleman

The team recorded 15 individual best times and nine relay best splits.

St. Henry District High School Winter Classic

Saturday, December 20 | Keating Natatorium, St. Xavier High School

The AquaPandas followed up with another strong performance, winning the SHDHS Winter Classic.

Top Eight Individual Finishers:

Marisa Kent, Sr.: 6th – 50 free; 2nd – 500 free

Peyton Quinn, Sr.: 2nd – 50 free; 2nd – 100 free

Danaka Tucker, Sr.: 2nd – 200 free; 2nd – 100 fly

Nora Vonbokern, Jr.: 6th – 200 IM; 4th – 100 back

Caroline Gollar, So.: 5th – 50 free; 4th – 500 free

Clare Herfel, So.: 1st – 200 IM; 1st – 100 free

Marcy Franxman, So.: 3rd – 200 IM; 3rd – 100 breast

Peyton Collinsworth, Fr.: 5th – 200 free

Maclaine Hancock, Fr.: 4th – 200 free; 8th – 100 back

Kate Napier, Fr.: 5th – 200 IM; 5th – 100 fly

Saylor Vonbokern, Fr.: 6th – 200 free

Top Three Relays:

200 medley relay

2nd: Kent, Gollar, Napier, Quinn

3rd: Franxman, Nora Vonbokern, Hancock, Maggie Durrett, So.

200 free relay

2nd: Franxman, Tucker, Napier, Herfel

400 free relay

1st: Tucker, Quinn, Kent, Herfel

The team recorded 10 individual best times and five relay best splits.

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



ATTENTION PARENTS!

CAREER FAIR PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

NDA will be hosting the Career Fair this year on Tuesday, March 3rd. We are looking for any parent that may be willing and able to speak about his or her career. If you are an interested parent and can be available to present to small groups of students from approximately 8:15-10:30 am, please fill out this Google Form. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to email me directly at monohanc@ndapandas.org.

COLLEGE REP VISITS

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

NDA COLLEGE VISIT SCHEDULE

[CLICK HERE](#) for a list of college visits specifically for NDA students/families. The visits are in the hallway outside the cafeteria. All students are welcome to visit the reps.



GSE & GSA APPLICATION TIME

REMINDER FOR NDA STUDENTS

Just a reminder to apply for the KY Governor's School for Entrepreneurs and the KY Governor's School for the Arts! These summer programs are amazing opportunities to learn and live on a college campus. These programs also qualify you for scholarship money at many different colleges and universities in the state of Kentucky. Please see the padlet for links to helpful presentations created by Mrs. Slone to help with your application. I highly encourage you to take advantage of these amazing opportunities!

GSE Application closes on January 16th, 2026 (9th, 10th, 11th graders)

GSA Application closes on January 18th, 2026 (10th and 11th graders)

To learn more about these opportunities, check out this [quick reference guide](#)



SHARING OUR Community News

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

- Mary's Meals, A Simple Solution to World Hunger
- Point Arc Fest 2025
- Diocesan Workshops

Important dates

January 9	All School New Year's Mass in honor of Consecutive Donors
January 10	Silver Bells
January 12	HSPT Scholarship Reception
	HSPT Result Mtg
January 14-16	Senior Retreat #2
January 15	Alumnae Rosary
January 16-18	NDA/CCH Showcase
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
January 26	Catholic Schools Week begins
	Mass with SNDs
	CSW Volleyball Game
January 29	IDEAL Space Blessing and Ribbon Cutting
January 30	Talent Show
February 6	Winter Sports Pep Rally