



THE *nda* LIFE

## Dear Panda Families,

Each week, the Panda Press offers a glimpse into the many ways Notre Dame Academy lives out its mission. From academic achievements and service opportunities to performances, athletics, and moments of prayer and community, these stories remind us why NDA is such a special place. They reflect a community committed to educational excellence, empowering young women to make a difference, and encouraging students to step beyond their comfort zones. We are grateful to our students, faculty, staff, and families who bring this mission to life each day and continue to inspire one another through their dedication and faith.

In that spirit of celebration, we are pleased to recognize the outstanding work of our Theatre Department and students for a successful showcase titled *Roadtrip*. This engaging performance highlighted creativity, confidence, collaboration, and courage—hallmarks of an NDA education. We commend our students for sharing their talents and our directors for fostering an environment where students feel supported to grow, take risks, and shine with grace.

As we celebrate these successes, we also want to take a moment to reaffirm our shared commitment to the expectations that help Notre Dame Academy remain a safe, respectful, and mission-driven learning environment.

Recently, we have seen an increase in students wearing items outside of the approved uniform guidelines, including sweatpants or pajama pants under uniform skirts and flared leggings that do not meet dress code requirements. We have also noticed more frequent instances of students forgetting their ID and lanyards, leaving the building outside of approved dismissal procedures, and requesting trips to vehicles during the school day. These behaviors create safety concerns and disrupt the smooth operation of our school.

At Notre Dame Academy, our expectations are rooted in our mission to walk humbly, serve boldly, and shine with grace. Following school policies—including dress code, identification procedures, and dismissal protocols—helps students develop responsibility, respect for community norms, and care for one another's well-being.

All students are expected to adhere to NDA policies at all times. Moving forward, accountability measures will be enforced more consistently, including detentions and uniform checks when necessary. Additionally, students will no longer be permitted to go to their vehicles during the school day unless an adult is available to escort them. We ask families to help students plan ahead each morning to avoid disruptions during the day.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we remain committed to forming young women of faith, integrity, and leadership—ready to make a difference in the world.

♥ Go Pandas!

Walk in Faith,

*Mrs. Lisa Timmerding*

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



# FAITH IN ACTION



## FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING LITURGIES

We will celebrate mass at 7:20 a.m. on Friday, January 23 and Tuesday, January 27 in the chapel.

We will kick off Catholic Schools Week with an All School Mass on Monday, January 26 at 9:30 a.m. in the gym.

We will pray a decade of the rosary at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, January 22 in the chapel.



## MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE SENIOR RETREATS

Our third and final Senior Retreat will take place February 4-6 at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, OH. Parents of seniors on this retreat should have received an email from Mrs. Price on Tuesday, January 20 with more information about the retreat. If you did not receive this email - please email Mrs. Price at [priceb@ndapandas.org](mailto:priceb@ndapandas.org).

Thank you to everyone for the prayers for our seniors who were on retreat last week. The retreat was spirit-filled and full of reflection.

RETREAT  
INFORMATION

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## IMPORTANT REMINDER SOPHOMORE RETREAT

A reminder that Sophomore Retreat forms were due on Wednesday, Jan 21. If students haven't turned them in yet - they need to do so as soon as possible. The retreat will take place on Monday, February 2.

# Student Life

Calling all  
Mentors!

## CALLING ALL MENTORS

### HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR NDA YOUNG WOMEN

Parents, grandparents, alumnae, and young professionals—we invite you to partner with Notre Dame Academy by offering a summer mentorship or shadowing opportunity for one of our students. If you have a profession, skill set, or talent you would be willing to share, your guidance could make a meaningful impact as our young women explore career paths and develop real-world experience.

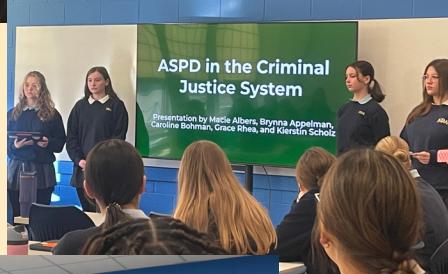
We are currently building a database to share with students who are eager to learn more about their futures. Whether your opportunity is formal or informal, short-term or ongoing, your willingness to mentor helps open doors, spark curiosity, and build confidence. If you are interested in participating, please let us know—we would love to connect our students with the incredible expertise within our NDA community.

Please email: [turners@ndapandas.org](mailto:turners@ndapandas.org) with your name, area of expertise and contact information.

## THINKING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

### SOPHOMORE AP SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Our Sophomore AP Seminar students recently showcased exceptional work through their presentations, offering a powerful example of what high-level thinking looks like at Notre Dame Academy. These young ladies researched current, real-world issues, analyzed multiple perspectives, and presented their findings with clarity, confidence, and purpose. Each presentation was supported by strong evidence, thoughtful reasoning, and meaningful analysis—demonstrating not only academic rigor, but also the ability to think critically and communicate effectively. We are proud of the depth of inquiry and intellectual maturity displayed by our sophomores as they continue to grow as scholars and leaders.





## EXPLORING FAITH, SCIENCE AND COLLABORATION FAITH MEETS DESIGN IN OUR NEW 1906 IDEAL INNOVATION SPACE

Notre Dame Academy's new 1906 IDEAL Innovation Space is quickly becoming a hub for creativity across all disciplines - including religion.

Freshmen religion students recently brought the story of Noah's Ark to life through a hands-on design challenge that blended faith, engineering and teamwork. Working in small groups, students designed and constructed scale replicas of Noah's Ark using popsicle sticks, hot glue, duct tape and corks, following precise measurements and design guidelines.

The project challenged students to think critically and collaboratively as they planned, built and tested their arks for buoyancy. Once completed, each ark was placed in water and loaded with marbles - representing the animals - to see which design could hold the most weight while remaining afloat.

Beyond the engineering challenge, the project encouraged deeper reflection on the biblical story itself. By combining careful planning, problem-solving and creativity, students experienced the story of Noah in a new and tangible way.

"This project is a great example of how the Innovation Space supports learning across every subject area," said NDA Principal Mrs. Lisa Timmerding. "It allows students to engage their hands and minds while connecting faith to real-world skills."

As Notre Dame Academy continues to expand the use of its 1906 IDEAL Innovation Space, projects like this highlight the school's commitment to educating young women who think critically, collaborate confidently and live their faith in meaningful ways.



## DEALS AND STEALS! SHOP THE BAMBOOTIQUE ONLINE

Have you seen everything NDA's Bambootique has to offer? From game days to school events, the Bambootique has the perfect spirit wear for showing your Panda pride wherever you go.

Check out today's deals - several \$5 t-shirts! Visit the Bambootique in person or shop [ONLINE](#) today and support the Pandas in style!

# Congratulations!



## Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

[\*\*Click HERE  
to see the  
complete list of  
winners!\*\*](#)

### OUTSTANDING PANDAS

## NDA STUDENTS EARN TOP HONORS IN SCHOLASTIC ART AND WRITING AWARDS

Notre Dame Academy students were recently recognized for their outstanding work in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, earning an impressive total of 110 awards across Gold, Silver and Honorable Mention distinctions in writing and visual art.

Student writers were honored in a wide range of categories, including poetry, personal essay and memoir, critical essay, short story, flash fiction, journalism and screenwriting. The breadth of recognition reflects both the talent of NDA's students and the strength of the school's writing program across all grade levels.

In addition to writing honors, Melissa Geiman earned a Silver Award for her Modern Art Analyses editorial cartoon, sponsored by The Herb Block Foundation, highlighting excellence in visual storytelling and social commentary.

The success of these students is a testament to the dedication and mentorship of Notre Dame Academy's faculty, particularly within the English and Art departments, who guided and supported students throughout the creative and submission process.

We congratulate all of our award recipients and extend sincere thanks to our teachers for their commitment to nurturing strong, confident writers and artists. Their work continues to inspire students to find their voice and use it with purpose.



## 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.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### SECOND QUARTER REPORT CARDS COMING HOME THIS WEEK

Report cards for the second quarter are being distributed this week. Digital report cards will be sent on Wednesday, January 21st. A paper copy of the report card will also be distributed to the students later in the week. For a full description of the grades that appear on the report cards, please refer to the explanation on the NDA web page under [Resources > PowerSchool > Report Card Grade Categories Defined](#).



**PLEASE NOTE!**

## 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.

## 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](mailto:attendance@ndapandas.org). Remember you can always call the school office with any questions 859-261-4300.

# Catholic Schools Week Schedule

MON	GRADE SCHOOL DAY <small>NDA VS CCH VOLLEYBALL GAME THAT NIGHT</small>
	SISTERHOOD SLEEPOVER
WED	WACKY WEDNESDAY
	WHITE LIES DAY
FRI	GENERATIONS DAY <small>FRESHMEN: BABIES   SOPHOMORES: GRADE SCHOOL JUNIORS: PARENTS   SENIORS: SENIOR CITIZENS</small>

## A WEEK OF FAITH, FUN AND SCHOOL SPIRIT CSW ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Student Council has been hard at work planning many fun and meaningful activities for our upcoming Catholic Schools Week. Throughout the week, students can look forward to special events, themed days, and opportunities to celebrate our school community, faith, and school spirit. We are excited to share these activities with everyone and hope they help make Catholic Schools Week a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.



## COMMUNITY INVITED TO SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE VOLLEYBALL MATCH TO KICK OFF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

We would like to invite all students, parents, and members of our community to join us for an exciting volleyball match against Covington Catholic on Monday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m. The game will be held at NDA, and it promises to be a great evening of school spirit and friendly competition. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Emergency Cold Shelter of NKY. We hope you can come out to support our teams and help kick off Catholic Schools Week with strong community pride and enthusiasm.



## ORDER TODAY YEARBOOK NEWS

NDA's 2026 yearbook, is available to order at [jostens.com](https://jostens.com) beginning at midnight tonight. Also, through Jan. 30, you can customize your book with cover icons to represent your daughter's favorite activities. Order now to take advantage of this great opportunity and best pricer! Our publications classes work hard to make the yearbook and appreciate your support!

## 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](mailto:bezolds@ndapandas.org)/859-292-1884, if you would be interested in more information about this opportunity. Your reply is not a commitment.

## 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.



# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

## PANDA ATHLETICS



### Swimming

Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference (NKAC) Championship

On Friday, January 16 (diving), and Saturday, January 17 (swimming), the AquaPandas competed in the NKAC Championship at the Kenton County Aquatics Center (Scott HS). The team dove well, had many great swims, and finished 2nd among the Division 1 schools. We had two individual first-place finishes: Marisa Kent defended her title in the 500 free, and Tara Gibson won the 100 breast.

#### Top 8 Individual Finishers

Marisa Kent (Sr): 2nd – 200 IM; 1st – 500 free  
Peyton Quinn (Sr): 2nd – 50 free; 5th – 500 free  
Charlie Frank (Jr): 6th – 50 free  
Tara Gibson (Jr): 1st – 100 breast  
Elsie Hanks (Jr): 7th – 200 IM; 3rd – 100 fly  
Maggie Durrett (So): 8th – 100 free  
Marcy Franxman (So): 4th – 200 free; 5th – 100 free  
Charley Koehl (So): 6th – 100 free; 3rd – 100 back  
Peyton Collinsworth (Fr): 7th – 200 free; 5th – 100 breast  
Lily Graham (Fr): 5th – 1-meter diving  
Maclaine Hancock (Fr): 6th – 100 free  
Chloe Mock (Fr): 8th – 100 back  
Kate Napier (Fr): 6th – 100 fly; 3rd – 100 breast  
Caroline Dusing (8th): 8th - 1-meter diving

#### Top 8 Relay Finishers

200 medley relay: 2nd – Kent, Gibson, Hanks, Quinn  
200 free relay: 2nd – Franxman, Napier, Hanks, Nora Vonbokern (Jr)

The team posted 13 best times and 1 best relay split. Congratulations on a great meet! Meet results are attached.

#### Region 7 Championships

The Region 7 Championships begin tomorrow, Wednesday, January 21, with diving at the Kenton County Aquatics Center (Scott HS).

Girls warmups: 12:00 pm  
Meet start: 1:00 pm

Good luck to our divers as the championship portion of our season ramps up!

### Archery

This past week our Archery team was led by Anna Barczak's personal best 282 and 3rd place finish. The Pandas scored their season high team score of 3,185! They took 2 of the top 10 and 5 of the top 30 spots in a field of 137 high school girls! Anna Barczak and Madelyn Dekker both shot a perfect 50 scoring end! 7 girls shot their personal bests this weekend! Congratulations on a great team performance!



This weekend we host the Christine Marie Bartel Memorial 3D Tournament Friday Jan. 23 and Saturday Jan. 24. Keep up the great work Pandas!



### Basketball

Last week, our Pandas faced a challenging stretch with three tough basketball matchups. On Thursday, the team traveled to Seton Hall to face an opponent averaging 65 points per game. The Pandas delivered an outstanding defensive effort, holding Seton well below their average, but ultimately came up short in a hard-fought 39-33 loss.

On Saturday, January 17, the Pandas hosted Frederick Douglass at NDA. After falling behind by as many as 23 points in the third quarter, the team mounted a spectacular comeback. The Pandas battled until the final buzzer, narrowly falling 42-41 to a Frederick Douglass team that averages 67 points per game.

The week concluded on a high note Monday night, as the Pandas traveled to West Jessamine and earned a strong 61-51 victory over the Colts.

This week, the team is back on the road, traveling to DuPont Manual on Friday, January 23, followed by a matchup at Assumption on Saturday, January 24.



### Bowling

Congratulations to our bowling team with a great season, winning their last tournament! This will provide great momentum going into the postseason. The team won the 2026 Cooper Bowling Jaguar Classic! These young ladies bowled 15 Baker games and won with a total of 2324 on a challenging pattern! Way to bowl ladies!



**CONGRATS!**



# COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



## ATTENTION PARENTS!

### CAREER FAIR PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

NDA will be hosting the Career Fair this year on Tuesday, March 3. 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](mailto:monohanc@ndapandas.org).



## 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.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### CINDERELLA'S CLOSET RETURNS

Cinderella's Closet will again be open this year to assist students who need support with attending Prom by providing them with a dress, shoes, jewelry, and minor alterations - all for free! The Closet will open from March 11 - 15 and be located at the NKU Student Union. Any junior or senior student who could use that support to attend prom are eligible to attend and all who attended in the past have all come back sharing about having a wonderful experience. If students or families are interested in attending they need to email school counselor Erin Maggard at [maggarde@ndapandas.org](mailto:maggarde@ndapandas.org) and she can help make the appointment.

# Advancing the Mission



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND  
NOTRE DAME ACADEMY'S TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL  
*Women Making A Difference*  
AWARD LUNCHEON 2026

Tuesday, March 3, 2026  
St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center (SETEC)  
3861 Olympic Blvd. Erlanger KY, 41018

11:00 A.M. Registration & Networking  
12:00 P.M. Luncheon & Awards Ceremony

Honoring NDA Alumnae for the contributions they have made to their families, communities and beyond.  
2026 Women Making A Difference Honorees



Sr. Mary Lynette Shelton, SND  
1959



Donna Bloemer  
1987



Christine Dunn Whelan  
1990

JOIN US...

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Now in its twenty-fifth year, the Women Making a Difference award recognizes the remarkable contributions of Notre Dame Academy alumnae to their families, professions, and communities through leadership, service, and philanthropy. Each honoree exemplifies the mission and values of Notre Dame Academy — living lives rooted in faith and dedicated to making a positive impact in the world. All alumnae, corporate representatives, parents, and friends of Notre Dame Academy are warmly invited to attend. Additional details, ticket information, and sponsorship opportunities can be found [HERE](#).



PRESENTED BY  
**LEXUS**  
NORTHERN KENTUCKY

## LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR NDA BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL!

We're thrilled to invite our parent community to be part of something truly special: Light the Night for NDA! This signature event is more than a celebration; it's a powerful expression of our shared mission to support, inspire, and invest in our students. We're looking for volunteers to join our amazing Chairs, Tracie Stacy, Laura Mauller and Jen Fariello, to help plan and bring this unforgettable night to life, from creative ideas to behind-the-scenes coordination. Help create an experience that strengthens our community and directly supports the programs that help our students thrive. If you're ready to make a meaningful impact and have some fun along the way, we'd love to have you join us!

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## SHARING OUR Community News

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

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

## Important dates

January 21	Dress Down \$3 for NDA in Uganda
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 2	Sophomore Retreat
February 4	Senior Retreat #3
	Mid-Quarter
February 5	Sips and Stems - Alumnae Hall
February 6	Winter Sports Pep Rally
February 11	JETS Competition
February 16	No School - President's Day
February 18	Ash Wednesday Mass
	SND Day of Reconciliation Retreat
February 19	Alumnae Rosary