



January 28, 2026

THE *nda* LIFE

## Dear Panda Families,

Winter weather may have disrupted our routine this week, but it has not diminished the spirit of Notre Dame Academy. While snow days prevented us from beginning Catholic Schools Week as planned, we are grateful for the opportunity to continue celebrating throughout the week and to reflect on the many ways our community lives out its mission each day.

Catholic Schools Week invites us to reflect on the purpose of a faith-centered education and the responsibility we share in forming young women of integrity, compassion, and leadership. Even with a shortened week, our students have continued to engage in opportunities for prayer, learning, service, and school spirit. These moments remind us that Catholic education is not confined to a single week on the calendar, but is woven into the daily life of our school.

This week's Panda Press highlights many examples of that mission in action. From academic innovation and creative expression to service rooted in empathy and athletics that build teamwork and perseverance, our students continue to grow as confident young women prepared to serve others. These experiences are made possible through the dedication of our faculty and staff, who model faith and excellence each day, and through the partnership we share with our families.

Earlier today, families received a separate communication regarding a routine canine sweep conducted on campus as part of our ongoing safety protocols. We are grateful to partner with our School Resource Officer and local law enforcement, and we remain committed to proactive measures that support a safe, healthy learning environment for all students.

We are thankful for your flexibility and understanding during weather-related closures. Your support allows us to keep student safety as our top priority while maintaining a strong sense of community when we return to campus.

Thank you for the trust you place in Notre Dame Academy and for the important role you play in the formation of your daughters. As *Sisters in Mission*, we remain committed to forming young women who *Walk Humbly, Serve Boldly, and Shine with Grace*.

Walk in Faith,

*Mrs. Lisa Timmerding*

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



# FAITH IN ACTION



## RETREAT INFORMATION



## VOLUNTEER opportunities



### FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING LITURGIES

We will celebrate mass in the chapel at 7:20 a.m. on Friday, January 30 and Tuesday, February 3.

We will pray a decade of the rosary in chapel at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, January 29.

### GROWING IN FAITH RETREAT INFORMATION

#### SENIOR MISSION RETREAT

All Senior parents should have received an email on Wednesday, January 28 regarding the one day Senior Mission Retreat that will take place on Tuesday, March 10. Please reach out to Mrs. Price if you did not receive it.

#### SOPHOMORE RETREAT

Please pray for our sophomore class and the final group of seniors who will be making their retreat during the week of February 2-6.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SOPHOMORES

Sophomores will be on retreat on February 2. A list of students who opted out of riding the bus can be found [here](#). These students must be dropped off between 8:15-8:30 a.m. and picked back up between 2:30-2:45 p.m. at St. Barbara's Parish Event Center on Turkeyfoot Road. All other sophomores not on this list need to be at NDA at 8:00 a.m. so that they can be bussed to the retreat center. They will return to NDA by bus by school dismissal time at 3:00 p.m. Sophomores are reminded that they need to pack a lunch and water bottle for the day.

### FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING LITURGIES

There have been quite a few service opportunities added to the list of upcoming service opportunities. A reminder that Freshmen and Sophomore Service Hours are due on March 31. Don't wait to sign up - schedule your service ahead of time as many schools have service hour deadlines around the same time. Everyone will be looking for service projects - so sign up early to ensure your spots at the service agencies. Students can visit the padlet each week to see this updated list of [Ongoing Service Opportunities](#) which includes ways to sign up.

Opportunities listed:

St. Agnes Basketball tournament  
Too Little Children sewing event  
St. Timothy Fish Fry

Stringtown Quilters Guild  
St. Charles Easter Party  
Maker Expo

# Student Life

## Catholic Schools Week Schedule

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

## A WEEK OF FAITH, FUN AND SCHOOL SPIRIT HAPPY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!

Even though winter weather shortened our week, the spirit of Catholic Schools Week is still alive and well at Notre Dame Academy. Student Council has been hard at work planning fun and meaningful activities, and we are excited to continue celebrating together.

Throughout the week, students are enjoying themed days, special events, and opportunities to come together in faith, community, and Panda pride. Snow or no snow, we are still having fun and making the most of this special week!

\*Please note: The NDA/CCH volleyball game benefiting ESNKY has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date. Additional details will be shared in next week's Panda Press Weekly.

## 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.



## SAVE THE DATE FATHER DAUGHTER NIGHT!

Save the Date, Pandas! Our annual Father-Daughter Event is set for March 20, 2026. More details and ticket information to follow—mark those calendars!



## CONGRATULATIONS



## PANDAS!



# SHOWCASING INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP NDA STUDENTS EARN TOP HONORS AT REGIONAL PITCH COMPETITION

Students from Notre Dame Academy's Entrepreneurship Club and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competed in a pitch competition hosted by Square One at St. Xavier High School, earning top awards for creativity, innovation, and real-world impact.

Junior Brooke Sweeney earned first place overall and a \$3,000 cash prize for her business, Oats Elevated, an overnight oats company focused on nutritious, convenient food options. Sweeney plans to use the prize money toward an incubator kitchen to expand her product offerings and scale production.

Students Lizzy Fite and Lauren Pence earned the "Creates the Most Buzz" award for their innovative sweatshirt design created for patients with cancer, diabetes, and Alzheimer's. Their design includes easy-access flaps for IVs and ports, an internal insulin pump holder, and a fully reversible style that eliminates confusion about how the garment is worn. Their project was recognized for its thoughtful design and user-centered approach.

Additional NDA teams also competed in the event. Audra Schneider, Olivia Eibel, and Lorna Knarr presented an idea for a microplastic boat filter aimed at reducing water pollution. Seniors Ava Boertlein, Lucy Siegert, and Riley Pope pitched a resume creator app designed to support students and young professionals as they prepare for the workforce.

A special thank you to Megan Zumbiel, who attended the competition and supported NDA students throughout the event.

These experiences highlight Notre Dame Academy's commitment to developing young women who are confident leaders in innovation, entrepreneurship, and STEM - equipped to identify challenges, think creatively, and design solutions that serve others.

## EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

### VOTE FOR MR. RORY GLYNN

We are proud to celebrate Rory Glynn, journalism, publications and technology teacher at Notre Dame Academy, who has been nominated for Northern Kentucky's Educator of the Week.

Nominated by Bill Thompson, Mr. Glynn is recognized for bringing decades of real-world journalism experience into the classroom. After a distinguished career with the Cincinnati Enquirer, Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Cleveland Plain Dealer, he chose to pursue teaching, sharing his passion for truth, storytelling and accountability with the next generation.

In his classroom, Mr. Glynn challenges students to think critically, write with purpose and understand the vital role journalism plays in society. His dedication empowers young voices and prepares students for success well beyond NDA.

Let's show some Panda pride and support Mr. Glynn by voting so he can bring home this well-deserved recognition. [VOTE HERE](#)





## CREATIVITY AND REAL-WORLD APPLICATION COMMERCIAL ART & DESIGN STUDENTS BRING ORIGINAL APPAREL DESIGNS TO LIFE

Our Commercial Art & Design class midterm project challenged students to create an original shirt or sweatshirt design to be featured in the Bambootique. Students began by sketching their ideas in Procreate or Canva, then developed foundational skills in Adobe Illustrator to transform their sketches into vectors suitable for screen printing. On exam day, each student pitched their design to the class, and a favorite (designed by Stella Wise) was selected by student vote to be printed at Underground Sports.

On January 6, the class took a field trip to Underground Sports, where students toured the facility and learned about the screen-printing process—from translating a digital design to screen preparation and production, to watching the final designs printed on the press.

The day continued at the American Sign Museum with a design- and branding-focused tour highlighting the history of iconic brands such as Holiday Inn and McDonald's. Students concluded the visit with a hands-on activity in which they were given a business prompt and tasked with designing a logo and slogan that reflected the era in which the business was established.

### PURCHASE THE SWEATSHIRT TODAY SHOP THE BAMBOOTIQUE

You can purchase the sweatshirt designed by Mrs. Ammerman's Commercial Art and Design Class today in the Bambootique, either in person or [ONLINE](#).

This student-created piece supports creativity, school spirit, and the incredible talent of our Pandas. Quantities are limited, so don't wait to grab yours and show your Panda pride!



Design made  
by NDA junior,  
Stella Wise.



### ORDER NOW STUDENT-DESIGNED SWEATSHIRT

The sweatshirt is available for pre-order through the online form linked [HERE](#). Pre-orders will remain open through Friday, January 30, and all items will be produced after the ordering window closes.

Please note that payment will be collected when the sweatshirts arrive. By checking the box at the end of the pre-order form, purchasers are confirming their commitment to buy the sweatshirt.

Want one today? Visit the Bambootique to purchase in person or online.

Thank you for celebrating student talent and supporting the creative work of our Pandas!

## 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.

### Looking for a unique, short-term hosting opportunity?

Ms. Tewes from CCH is seeking a few NDA families willing to host a German exchange student for one week in March. There is no cost, and students do not need their own bedroom — just a bed and a welcoming family. Even busy families are a great fit, as students are excited to experience everyday American life. Details [HERE](#).

## 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.

A large, stylized text "Hello, Spain." in a yellow, blocky font. In the background, there is a blurred image of a city skyline with a prominent cathedral, likely Toledo, Spain.

## 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.



## 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 price! Our publications classes work hard to make the yearbook and appreciate your support!



**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.

# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

## PANDA ATHLETICS

### Archery

Thanks to the help of many, we hosted a fantastic archery event and fundraiser this weekend! Navigating schedule changes and weather concerns wasn't easy, but everything came together beautifully. Every contribution—big and small—made the weekend a success, and Chip and I truly appreciate it.

A special thank you goes to Lindsey Maselli, who spent the entire weekend on the range with us for both tournaments this season. Your dedication does not go unnoticed!

Congratulations to the archery team on a strong performance at the 2nd Annual Christine Marie Bartel Memorial 3D Tournament. The Pandas posted a team score of 1586, our highest 3D team score in the past two years! Individually, our high school girls captured 3 of the top 10 spots, placed 6 in the top 25, and had three athletes shoot personal bests. Outstanding work—keep it going, ladies!



### Bowling

Bowling is heading into postseason play with the Regional Team Event on Monday, February 2, at Bellwood Lanes in Newport, followed by the Singles Tournament on February 3. The team has had a great season, and we wish them the best of luck next week. Go Pandas!



### Basketball

Last Friday, the basketball team faced Dupont Manual in a rematch from earlier this season and earned another impressive win, 61–46, improving their record to 12–5. Recent snow has impacted the schedule, resulting in postponed games against Assumption and Conner. The team is set to travel to Highlands on Friday, January 30, to take on the Bluebirds.

### Swim & Dive

Postseason competition is underway for Swim and Dive! Last Thursday, our divers competed at the regional meet, where all three athletes qualified for the KHSAA State Meet:

Savannah Bien – 1st place

Lily Graham – 7th place

Caroline Dusing – 11th place



Their performances earned valuable points heading into the swimmers' competition. Swimmers will compete in the regional preliminaries on Thursday at Scott High School, with finals on Saturday morning. Best of luck to all our Aqua Pandas!

### Important Spring Sports Meeting

There will be a mandatory parent meeting for any families with a daughter participating in a spring sport on March 2 from 5:45–6:30 PM. Please plan to attend if this will be your daughter's first sport of the year.

### Save the Date: Notre Dame Athletics Golf Outing

Mark your calendars for June 5! The Annual Notre Dame Athletics Golf Outing, which supports all Notre Dame athletic teams, will be held at Kenton County Golf Courses. The outing will feature both an 18-hole division and a 9-hole division, along with

# COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



## 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.



## 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.



## 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).

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT

# COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT

Thursday, March 12 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 p.m., Notre Dame Academy is hosting a College Information Night available to all NDA and CCH parents. The event will include attending two of three presentations with various topics such as financing post secondary education, connecting with resources, and college preparation. Dan Bisig from College and Beyond will be presenting on "College Affordability", the do's and don'ts of navigating the financial aid world, and what it takes for students to earn merit-based scholarships. Montanna McClain, our Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority representative, will speak to when and how to apply for state and federal funds, including information regarding the FAFSA. Jess Brown and Erin Stanley will be sharing school-specific information about the college application process, what to expect with timelines, deadlines, and how to create a balanced College List. Registration is not required and we hope to see you all there! Please reach out to Erin Stanley at [stanleye@ndapandas.org](mailto:stanleye@ndapandas.org) or Jessica Brown at [jbrown@covcath.org](mailto:jbrown@covcath.org) with questions.

**Happy ValenTails**

**FUNDRAISER**

Monday FEB 9<sup>th</sup> - Thursday FEB 12<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday FEB 11<sup>th</sup> :  
Sweatpants Day!  
Bring 1 Item or \$3

Thursday FEB 12<sup>th</sup> :  
Out of Uniform Day!  
Bring 1 Item or \$5

Items Needed:

- Heavy Duty Leashes
- PetSafe Martingale Collars
- Large Wire Dog Crates
- Dog Food & Treats (Dog/Cat)
- Blankets
- Dog Beds

By Megan Fedor & Emily Stewart

## ATTENTION STUDENTS HAPPY VALENTAILS FUNDRAISER

Students are invited to support animals in need by participating in the Happy ValenTails Fundraiser, taking place Monday, February 9 through Thursday, February 12.

Wednesday, February 11: Sweatpants Day — bring one item or \$3

Thursday, February 12: Out of Uniform Day — bring one item or \$5

Requested donation items include heavy-duty leashes, martingale collars, large wire dog crates, dog or cat food and treats, blankets, and dog beds.

Thank you for spreading the love and supporting this student-led service project.

# Advancing the Mission

**Thank you  
Parents!**



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

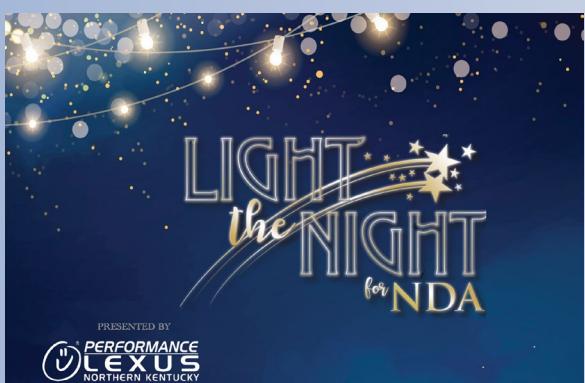


Grateful for the Community  
that Sustains Our Mission



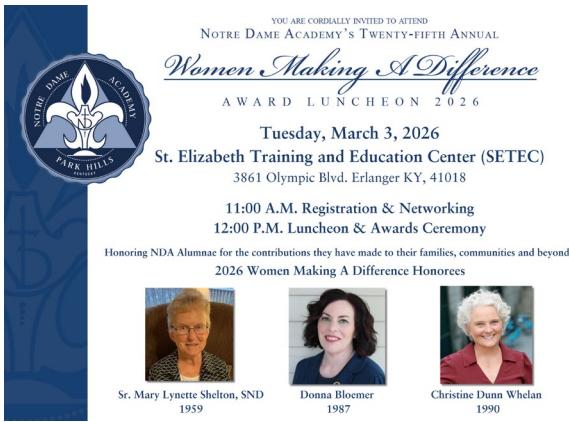
## THANK YOU! GRATEFUL FOR OUR PARENTS

We are grateful for the strong partnership we share with our NDA parents and for the trust you place in our school each day. We thank you for the many ways you support Notre Dame Academy, through your time, generosity, prayers, and presence in our community. Your commitment makes it possible for us to live our mission and provide an education that is *more than just an education, a transformation*. Thank you for the role you play in shaping a faith-filled, purpose-driven community for your daughters.



## LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR NDA! MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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! If interested, please email Myanna Webster at [websterm@ndapandas.org](mailto:websterm@ndapandas.org).



## 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](#).

# 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 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
March 3	Women Making A Difference Luncheon