



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

February 7, 2024

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Parents,

Earlier this week, Mrs. Miller shared the news with you of my decision to step down as Principal of Notre Dame Academy at the end of this school year. This choice comes after considerable contemplation and while I admit to feeling some trepidation about my unknown path ahead, I am also excited to see what's next in my journey. Over the past nine years, I have consistently encouraged NDA students to embrace healthy risks and explore new opportunities and now it's time for me to heed my own advice and, as always, trust God's plan.

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for your support and encouragement during my time at NDA. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your principal for the past nine years, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of such a special community.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Sisters of Notre Dame and Dr. Laura Koehl for their support and guidance throughout my tenure at NDA. Their commitment to the mission of NDA has been an inspiration to me and I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside them.

As I prepare to transition out of my role, I want to assure you that I am fully committed to serving the faculty, staff and students of NDA to the best of my ability until the end of my contract. Leadership changes are part of any institution's evolution and NDA has consistently demonstrated its ability to embrace change while staying true to its mission. I am confident that with your continued support and Mrs. Miller's leadership, NDA will continue to thrive and excel in the years to come.

In the meantime, I am pleased to share with you that the search for the next principal of NDA is already underway. Mrs. Miller will form a selection committee tasked with reviewing applications and conducting interviews with the goal of having a new principal in place by July 1, 2024. I have full confidence in the strength of our NDA community and our ability to find the ideal candidate to lead us into the future.

Once again, thank you for your support and encouragement throughout my time at NDA. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of such a wonderful community and I look forward to seeing all that Notre Dame Academy will accomplish in the years to come.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf

Thank you to everyone in our community who shared a part in last week's wonderful celebration of Catholic education at NDA! You can get a glimpse of all of the fun [HERE](#).



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Have a great day and make good choices!

Student Life



INFORMATION SESSION

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Student Council moderators (Ms. Hilbert and Mrs. Kroger) and Mrs. Timmerding will hold an informational session for students interested in leadership opportunities at NDA. We will discuss the leadership options which are offered to students in both the Student Council and the Family System. We encourage all students who might be willing to play key roles in the development of activities at our school to attend this information session. It will be held on Wednesday, February 14 at 8:30 a.m. in the Choral Room. Additional information will be sent as the date approaches.

FEBRUARY OUTREACH

NEW FAMILY COMPETITION - DRESS DRIVE



During the month of February, our family leadership students will sponsor and lead an outreach activity to benefit Cinderella's Closet. This organization works as a non-profit to help make Prom more affordable for girls who may struggle with the costs. Cinderella's Closet is in desperate need of dresses this year and we are happy to help and support them. What better time than right after the New Year when many families work to clean out closets and make donations? If you have formal gowns, blingy jewelry, formal shoes or just feel compelled to make a monetary donation, please consider helping such a worthy cause (which may benefit some of our very own PaNDAs). More information to come regarding our collection that will begin on February 1. The flyers found [HERE](#) provide more details regarding what they need.

VOTE!

VOTE!

VOTE!

CAST YOUR VOTE

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Please be ready to vote for one of our successful athletes again this week....

Abby Carnes - swimming

Abby took third place in the 100-yard backstroke at the Seventh Region championships, while helping the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relay teams to victory.

Click [HERE](#) to vote!

Remember to vote every hour and vote from your phone.



DADS AND DAUGHTERS SCORE BIG

FATHER / DAUGHTER FUN NIGHT

Last Friday, the gym, cafeteria, auditorium, and Alumnae Hall were buzzing with laughter, dancing, and friendly competition as many PaNDAs enjoyed a fun night with their fathers as a culmination of Catholic Schools Week. Mrs. Crystal Pohlman spearheaded the organization of this amazing event with the help of some dedicated and incredible other parents. Dads and daughters came dressed as their favorite sport, team or athlete. There was a costume contest which showcased Rosie Red, Mr. Red, a dynamic jockey duo and their horse, baseball players, cheerleaders, and of course some Bengals. The girls and dads enjoyed dancing, competing at cornhole, putt putt, basketball, pop a shot and other games. The photo booth was a bit hit as well as the stadium snacks and treats. A huge thank you to all who attended the event and an even greater thank you to those who worked tirelessly to make the event happen for our families.



CELEBRATING AND COMPETING

NEON FUN

Catholic Schools Week is an amazing treat for our students, faculty and staff. On Wednesday, the Student Council treated NDA's dedicated staff to a delicious breakfast. The day continued with neon themed attire and culminated with the traditional CCH versus NDA volleyball game. As predicted, the PaNDAs came out on top winning more games than the Colonels. The proceeds from this exciting event were donated to the Emergency Cold Shelter of Northern Kentucky. Mrs. Kim Webb began the evening by sharing the mission of her organization and her hopes for the future. The volleyball games were extremely entertaining and it was a successful and fun night for everyone (except for maybe a few sad senior Colonels).



CSW THURSDAY

HOLIDAY HOOPLA

On Thursday of Catholic Schools Week, the students and staff were invited to celebrate their favorite holidays. Students wore comfortable holiday pajama pants, Christmas accessories, and other fun holiday items. There were even a few leprechaun sightings and maybe even an Easter bunny.



DECADES DAY

PANDAS GOT TALENT

The gift of Catholic Schools were celebrated one final day with Decades Day, a special Chick-fil-A lunch, and an amazing show of NDA's finest with PaNDAs Got Talent. Freshmen students dressed in 2010 themed attire, sophomore students dressed in attire from the 2000s, juniors brought us back to the 90s, and seniors celebrated the fabulous 80s. Students were permitted to order Chick-fil-A lunch and the day concluded with our traditional talent show. This year, we rebranded it to more of a variety show. True talents were of course highlighted, but we also had some silly skits and acts intertwined to showcase different groups of students. Thank you to all who participated and a special and heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Hilbert, Mrs. Kroger and their dedicated Student Council members who planned such an incredible week for our students.

Rolling Into Action:



NDA BIKE DRIVE

PEDAL-POWERED PHILANTHROPY

ROLLING INTO ACTION: NDA BIKE DRIVE

Join the Notre Dame Academy Peer Ministers, led by Josie Bozeman, as they gear up to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Partnering with Catholic Charities' Pickett's Corner ministry, the students are collecting bikes to provide essential transportation for those in need.

Your donation of a bike, no matter its condition, can change a life. Pickett's Corner ministry repairs and donates used bikes to Parish Kitchen guests who rely on them to get to work, medical appointments and social services. Last year alone, over 250 bikes were given to neighbors in need, thanks to generous contributions.

But the wheels don't stop there. Notre Dame Academy aims to collect 25 bikes this year.

Don't have a bike to donate? You can still pedal towards change by making a monetary contribution. Every donation helps purchase spare parts, tools, and locks to secure bikes, ensuring they're road-ready for those who need them most.

This initiative is kicking off on Ash Wednesday and is a great way to practice almsgiving this Lenten season. More information will follow about how to donate a bike.

Ready to join the ride? Let's spin the wheels of generosity and make a meaningful impact in our community, one bike at a time!

JOIN US MARCH 9TH FROM 9-12 FOR A DAY OF FUN AND FEMINISM

In Our
Girl Up
Era!

SPREAD THE WORD GIRL UP DAY

Come to NDA for the annual Girl Up Day! We invite young people grades 4-8 to join us for a day of fun activities, from making bracelets to scavenger hunt puzzles. The day focuses on confidence, leadership, and teamwork, as well as getting familiar with their community. Part of the global Girl Up mission of women's empowerment, we hope you join us on March 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon) for learning and lasting friendships.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

EMAIL RNOPAZ4@NDAPANDAS.ORG OR SCHEINER26@NDAPANDAS.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS!



CULINARY DELIGHT

MADAME OTTO'S FRENCH CLASSES CELEBRATE NATIONAL CRÊPE DAY WITH SUCCESS

On Friday, February 2, Madame Otto's French classes celebrated *National Crêpe Day*. Students learned how to make crêpes, then enjoyed eating their work. It was *Un grand succès*.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

LATIN LESSONS WITH EDGAR

Edgar chilled out with Latin 3 today as they worked on subjunctive uses and purpose clauses. He was a big help.



KUDOS KATIE & GRACIE!

EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH

Congratulations to Katie Zwick and Gracie Portwood! Both Katie and Gracie, students of Michael Byrd, have been selected for inclusion in Thomas More University's creative writing publication.

LATIN 2 ROMAN HOUSE PROJECT

DOMUS, DULCIS DOMUS!

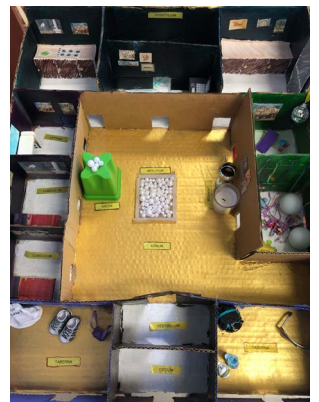
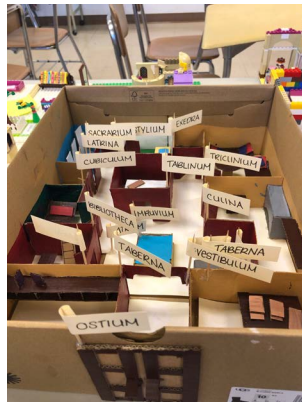
The Latin 2 students recently completed their annual Roman house project. Students learn about Roman housing in Latin 1 and continue this study in Latin 2, ultimately designing their own floor plans and constructing their own Roman house models.



The project involves including all of the standard features and rooms to a wealthy Roman 'domus' (house) in their design, while also including a certain number of extra rooms and features and their own design aesthetic and creative twist to them, combining the ancient with the modern. They label everything in their houses in Latin. Students are able to use whatever material they wish to build their house models.

Over the years, Latin students have made houses out of Styrofoam, model clay, sugar cubes, Legos, wood, cardboard, popsicle sticks, and more. This year we had one student even attempt to bake a cookie house! While that tactic proved a bit too difficult in its execution, it was a great example of the creativity and hard work that students put into their projects each year. Students are also able to build virtual Roman houses in Minecraft and a few do so every year - not easy to encapsulate in pictures, but they are always incredibly neat to see.

While the majority of Romans actually lived in multi-story apartments, rather than large homes such as these, few apartments have survived, and none anywhere near as fully in-tact. There are many very well-preserved ruins of large Roman houses such as the ones students designed in Italy among the ruins of the ancient cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Ostia still today, though, and we are able to learn a great deal from them. This project allows students to express their creativity, take part in hands-on learning, have fun working together in partners and groups building them with friends, and visualize better how the Romans lived.



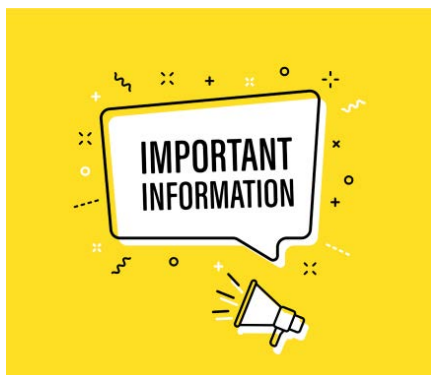


DELICIOUS NEWS

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

You can find NDA's lunch menu below and on our website [HERE](#).

Parents, please check your daughter's lunch account balance. We have many overdue accounts and some are quite large.



REMINDER FOR SENIOR PARENTS

MISSION RETREAT LETTERS DUE FEBRUARY 16

Just a reminder that Senior Parent Letters are due on Friday, Feb 16 for the Senior Class Mission Retreat which will take place on March 12. The information letter that was sent out in mid January about these notes can be found [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to Bridget Price at priceb@ndapandas.org.

PLEASE NOTE!

DEADLINE REMINDER

SERVICE INFORMATION

Service work for all Freshmen, Sophomores and Seniors is due on March 8. Specifics about the service requirements can be found [HERE](#). Upcoming opportunities and local agency information can be found linked to the student padlet each week.



MEMORIES FOR LIFE

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY

NDA's 2024 yearbook, 24 hOURS, is on sale now! This is a must have for all Pandas! Mr. Glynn and our Publications team does an AMAZING job capturing all of the wonderful happenings at NDA throughout the year and students will look back at their yearbook for years to come. You can purchase it online here: jostens.com.

Host a Student!



INTERNATIONAL PANDAS

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

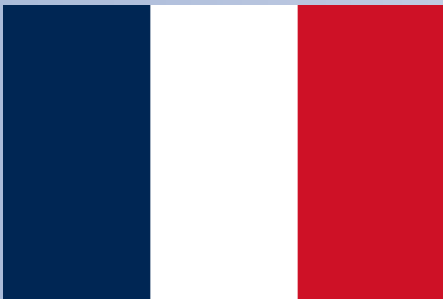
NDA is once again going to host international students from our sister school in Germany (Liebfrauenschule Vechta) for a portion of the 2024 fall semester. Two students will be experiencing The NDA Life for 6-8 weeks. The German students would love to be in the US to celebrate Halloween if possible, so we are exploring the idea of having the girls arrive here in mid -September and depart at the beginning of November. 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 Katie Caccavari, NDA Director of Enrollment, at caccavarik@ndapandas.org/859-292-1829, if you would be interested in more information about this opportunity. Your reply is not a commitment but would help us to know which families would consider supporting our international student enrollment by serving as host families.



FOR MOMS AND HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND DAUGHTERS

SISTERS OF STRENGTH

Vitalize your relationship with your daughter at The Sisters of Strength Gathering by Walking with Purpose. It's a life-changing weekend where you will be a part of the awakening of your daughter as she discovers the answers to some of life's biggest questions. You'll laugh, connect and both return home spiritually stronger and refreshed. The Sisters of Strength Gathering will delve into important topics equipping mothers and daughters to answer some of life's biggest questions with God's wisdom and perspective. This event will take place April 5-7 at the Landsdowne Resort in Leesburg, VA. You can find more information and register online [HERE](#).



LES PANDAS VOYAGEURS

MEETING FOR 2024 FRANCE TRIP

Madame Otto has scheduled the 1st of 3 mandatory meetings for the students enrolled and going on the 2024 France trip (no longer taking any travelers, as trip is full). The first meeting will be: Friday, February 9, at 3:30 in Room, 203. Students and at least one parent need to attend.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
Bambootique

PANDA SPIRIT WEAR!

BAMBOOTIQUE

It's a \$10 sale at the Bambootique! Don't miss the deals! Shop at the online Bambootique [HERE](#).

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Swimming & Diving

AquaPandas are Regional (Co-)Champs!

This past weekend, the AquaPandas competed in the swimming portion of the Region 7 Championships at the Kenton County Aquatic Center (Scott HS). The team swam their way to a near “dead heat” with Ryle HS, trailing by a single point (358-357). Last night was the diving competition at the Ralph Wright Natatorium (University of Louisville). The divers made up that point and as a result, the AquaPandas repeat as Region 7 Champions, although sharing the title with the Raiders this year (380-380)!



The following individuals were “Top 16” finishers:

- Savannah Bien: 1-meter diving - 2nd
- Abby Carnes: 200 IM - 5th; 100 back - 3rd
- Andi Carothers: 50 free and 100 free - 13th
- Reagan Connelly: 200 IM - 12th; 100 breast - 8th
- Ava Deegan: 50 free - 14th; 100 fly - 5th
- Elsie Hanks: 100 fly - 13th; 100 free - 16th
- Kat Heuker: 1-meter diving - 16th
- Brooke Hollenkamp: 1-meter diving - 12th
- Sadie Hartig: 200 free and 500 free - 1st
- Marisa Kent: 200 IM - 11th; 100 back - 10th
- Makayla Kleman: 200 free and 500 free - 9th
- Sammie Poulos: 200 IM - 8th; 100 back - 7th
- Peyton Quinn: 50 free - 8th; 100 breast - 10th
- Marlee Reynolds: 100 fly - 16th
- Danaka Tucker: 200 free - 3rd; 500 free - 4th
- Liv Wallace: 200 free - 6th; 100 back - 5th

The following relays were “Top 8” finishers:

- 200 Medley Relay (Poulos, Connelly, Deegan, Tucker) - 4th
- 200 Free Relay (Quinn, Carnes, Wallace, Hartig) - 1st
- 400 Free Relay (Carnes, Wallace, Tucker, Hartig) - 1st



Our Panda Divers have had an awesome week too! Here are our divers’ finishes at state: Savannah Bien finished 2nd, Brooke Hollenkamp finished 12th and Kat Hueker finished 16th! Congrats Aqua Pandas!

Next up for the AquaPandas is the State Opening Round (swimming) at the Kenton County Aquatic Center on Saturday, February 17, followed by the State Finals at Lancaster Aquatic Center (University of Kentucky) on Thursday, February 22 (diving) and Saturday, February 24 (swimming). Good luck AquaPandas!



Basketball -

Our JV team won the Region Championships this past weekend. The following players earned All-Tournament team: Sarah Young (Also the MVP), Riley Eberhard and Amelia Stallard. Erin McGraw was also named to be the Freshman All-TOurney Team

The Pandas Freshman, JV and Varsity teams all secured wins over Grant County. Every dressed player secured points in the game and Erin McGraw secured her first points as a varsity player with a 3 pointer!

Basketball will play Beechwood on Wednesday (Varsity only) and St. Henry (JV and V) on Saturday while celebrating our seniors that evening. After this week, there are 4 more games before the team starts postseason play with our District Tournament beginning February 26.

Archery -

Last Saturday the Archery Pandas competed in the Highlands High School Tournament. The team shot 3018 which included a season high 125 tens, The Pandas were led by Ava Boertlein at 279 which included 2 perfect 50's, Savannah Bien at 263, Lea Youtsey at 263, Lucy Siegert at 262 and Sarah Beckham at 252. Eight Pandas tied their season high score: Megan Ahern, Savannah Bien, Maya Collins, Caitlin Mining, Maddie Rawe, Bailey Russell, Lucy Siegert and Laney Wolfe. Also Congratulations to Ava Boertlein who was named Cincinnati Enquirer High School Girl Archer of the week. ARCHERY PANDAS ROCK!

Indoor Track and Field -

A big thanks to all those who competed in our first Indoor Meet on Saturday at Cedarville University! I'm proud of everyone's commitment to a long but successful day. It was a great start to the season. A special acknowledgement to all the ladies who competed in their first ever High School Track Meet for NDA: Sabrina Lemma, Matilda Gerdes, Olivia Browning, Sahori Rodriguez, Addison Frondorf, Sabrina Scroggins, Julia Stegman, Margo Hemmer, Cameron Kirtley, Ava Erpenbeck and Alex Burg.

Congrats to those who scored by finishing top 8 in their events:

4x800 - 4th place (Stella Bitikofer, Kelsey Weil, Cameron Kirtley, Alex Burg)

200 meter - 8th place (Addison Frondorf)

3200 meter - 2nd place (Alex Burg)

Pole Vault - 5th place (Brooke Hollenkamp)

[HERE](#) are the full results.

HELLO SPORTS FANS ATHLETIC CALENDAR

Don't miss any of the action with our Panda athletes! [Here](#) is the calendar for the upcoming week.

**GO
PANDAS!**



COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"Success always leaves footprints." - Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)

Throughout February, Notre Dame Academy is celebrating Black History Month!

- Each week NDA will highlight Black American Artists who used their artistic gifts to uplift the race and inspire a nation. This week's focus is Literature and Poetry.
- Important facts and accomplishments of inspirational Black Americans are posted on the Display Case in the front of the building, including some QR codes that link to short talks or recitations by the artist.
- Inspirational facts and quotes from a different artist will be shared each day on the announcements.
- An informative time line illustrating Black History in America is running continuously in the CLC.



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.



COVINGTON LATIN SCHOOL
Achieve here. Excel here. Belong here.

Spring
COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024

🕒 5:30PM - 7:30PM

📍 Covington Latin School
courtyard & cafeteria

All Diocese of
Covington High School
Students Welcome

Grades
9 - 12

See a list of who will be in attendance.
Learn about programs & scholarships.
Contact: ashley.pinnell@covingtonlatin.org

COVINGTON LATIN SCHOOL

COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

Covington Latin School is hosting a College and Career Fair on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

ADVANCING THE MISSION



THANK YOU PARENTS!

GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every parent who supported our 2023-24 Annual Fund during Catholic Schools Week. Your generous support is instrumental in sustaining our mission of providing exceptional education and fostering a nurturing environment for our students. With your generosity, we can continue to empower young minds, inspire creativity and cultivate a community dedicated to academic excellence and personal growth.

Your commitment to our school community is truly appreciated and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support. Thank you for being a vital part of the NDA family and for helping us make a difference in the lives of our students!

If you have not yet made a donation to this year's Annual Fund, you can do so here:

**Make a Difference by supporting
NDA's Annual Fund [HERE](#).**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
NOTRE DAME ACADEMY'S TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL
Women Making A Difference
AWARD LUNCHEON 2024
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024
NORTHERN KENTUCKY CONVENTION CENTER
COVINGTON, KENTUCKY
11:00 A.M. REGISTRATION & NETWORKING
12:00 P.M. LUNCHEON & AWARDS CEREMONY
Honoring Notre Dame Academy Alumnae for the contributions they
have made to their families, their communities, and beyond.
2024 WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE HONOREES
Betty Baumann Verst 1951 Sandy Bayless Gleeson 1962 Connie Noll 1985
PRESENTED BY:
Verst Group
Logistics
To make your reservation online, [CLICK HERE](#).

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY

YOU'RE INVITED

Three distinguished alumnae from Notre Dame Academy will be celebrated at the annual Women Making a Difference Recognition Award Luncheon, scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024. The honorees for this year's event are Betty Baumann Verst (Class of 1951), Sandra Bayless Gleeson (Class of 1962), and Connie Noll (Class of 1985).

Now in its twenty-third year, the Women Making a Difference award program acknowledges the remarkable contributions of Notre Dame Academy alumnae to their families and communities through service, professional achievements, and philanthropic endeavors. It is a tribute to these

women for embodying NDA's proud legacy and their continued impact on the world. Additionally, the luncheon plays a vital role in raising funds for tuition assistance at Notre Dame Academy.

The ceremony will take place at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, commencing with registration and networking at 11:00 a.m., followed by the luncheon at 12:00 p.m. The Women Making A Difference luncheon warmly welcomes all alumnae, corporate representatives, parents, and friends of Notre Dame Academy.

Ticket information and sponsorship opportunities can be found [HERE](#). For more information, please contact Notre Dame Academy's Director of Alumnae Relations, Lisa Willenbrink Mosley '95 at mosleyL@ndapandas.org or 859.292.1852.



SHARING OUR Community News

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

- Ladies Lenten Brunch
- Ladies Lenten Retreat
- 2023-24 Thomas More Dual-Credit Information Sessions
- Molly Mayer's Studio of Dance

Important dates

February 8	Alumnae Rosary 12:50 p.m. in the Chapel
	Sips and Stem- Alumnae Event
February 9	Winter Sports Pep Rally
	France 2024 Meeting
February 10	ACT at NDA
	Junior Retreat #3
February 12	HOPE Week Begins
February 14	Ash Wednesday Mass - Auditorium
February 19	President's Day - NO SCHOOL
February 26-28	Senior Retreat #3
March 7	Career Day
	Women Making a Difference Luncheon