



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

February 11, 2026

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Panda Families,

As we move deeper into February, there is a strong sense of momentum and purpose across our campus. From faith formation opportunities and service initiatives to joyful moments of school spirit, our students continue to live the mission of Notre Dame Academy in meaningful and visible ways each day.

Last week, I was fortunate to spend time with one of our senior retreat groups. It was truly wonderful to witness the growth of this class and the way they are coming together as a sisterhood rooted in faith. The retreat was a beautiful reminder that some of the most meaningful learning happens when our young women step away from the pace of daily life to reflect, pray, and support one another.

This week, our community looks ahead to several important moments of prayer and reflection, including upcoming liturgies and our Ash Wednesday Mass, which will mark the beginning of the Lenten season. As we prepare for this sacred time, we are also excited to share that Notre Dame Academy will be introducing the Hallow app as a new resource to support the spiritual lives of our students, faculty, and families. This opportunity will provide guided prayer, reflection, and faith-centered content that can accompany our community both on campus and at home, helping each of us grow more intentionally in our relationship with Christ. We always welcome parents to join us for school liturgies, and families may find the RSVP form in the "Faith In Action" section of this newsletter.

We are also inspired by the many ways our students are serving others and building community. Whether supporting local animals through the Happy ValenTails fundraiser, participating in retreats and mentorship opportunities, or simply encouraging one another through friendly competition during our Winter Family Group Olympic Games, our young women continue to show compassion, leadership, and creativity.

At the same time, there is so much to celebrate in the life of our school. Our Panda athletes continue to represent NDA with determination and pride, from historic bowling achievements to outstanding swim and dive performances. Additionally, we are proud of the sportsmanship, effort, and dedication of our Archery and Basketball teams as they prepare to enter postseason play. Moments like these remind us that success is measured not only in results, but in the perseverance, teamwork, and character our students demonstrate along the way.

As always, I am deeply grateful for the partnership we share with you, our families. Your encouragement and support allow our students to grow in faith, confidence, and purpose. Together, we continue forming young women who Walk Humbly, Serve Boldly, and Shine with Grace.

Thank you for the many ways you walk alongside us in this mission.

Walk in Faith,

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



Walk in Faith!

FAITH IN ACTION



ATTENTION PARENTS

SENIOR MISSION RETREAT

The senior Mission Retreat will take place on Tuesday, March 10. All seniors will be on this retreat. A request for Parent Letters was sent in January to all senior Parents. These letters are due back by Friday, February 20 to the school office. More information can be found [here](#). Please reach out to Mrs. Price with any questions.



FAITH FORMATION

UPCOMING LITURGIES

We will celebrate mass in the chapel at 7:20 a.m. on Friday, February 13 and Tuesday, February 17. We will pray a decade of the rosary in chapel at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, February 12.

On Wednesday, February 18 we will celebrate the start of the Lenten Season with an all school Ash Wednesday mass in our gym at 9:15 a.m. We invite parents of students to attend the mass with us if they would like. Please let us know if you are planning to attend so that we can plan accordingly by filling out this [brief form](#).



Providing joyful encounters with the Lord in music, prayer, Adoration, and reflection.

SUMMIT '26

February 27 - March 1
Thomas More University
Grades 9 - 12

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

SUMMIT '26

Calling all high school students! Enjoy a Eucharistic retreat with peers, February 27-March 1 at Thomas More University!

To register go to <https://covidio.org/event/summit-2026-retreat-high-school/>

Student Life

Save the date!

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!



FRIENDLY COMPETITION UNITES FAMILIES

PANDAS GO FOR GOLD

The Winter Family Group Olympic Games are officially underway at NDA, and the competition is on fire! With the torch lit and school spirit blazing, our Pandas are going for gold in this fun-filled medal showdown.



St. Rose of Lima is out front right now, leading the way with 4 gold medals—but the games are heating up and anything can happen!

Which family group will rise to the top and claim Olympic glory? Stay tuned, cheer loud, and let the friendly competition continue!

You can watch our torch lighting ceremony [HERE](#).



SPIRITED TRADITION

CSW VOLLEYBALL GAME RESCHEDULED

Due to earlier schedule changes, the Catholic Schools Week Volleyball Game has been rescheduled for **Monday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m.** We invite our NDA community to come out and support this fun and spirited event that celebrates school pride, teamwork, and the joy of making a difference. All proceeds benefit ESNKY. Mark your calendars and plan to cheer on our students as we continue this beloved CSW tradition together!

APPLY TODAY

INSPIRIT AI SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

We are grateful for our continued partnership with Inspirit AI, an innovative summer research program founded by researchers from Stanford University.

Emily Liang, Curriculum Head at Inspirit AI, recently shared how much she enjoyed working with our NDA students—especially highlighting Olivia's outstanding Healthcare AI project.



INSPIRIT AI

This year, Inspirit AI is launching a new AI and Public Innovation Track, and they are inviting students in 9-12 to apply.

AI Intensive with Stanford Mentors- [Information Link](#)

Inspirit AI is a 25-hour summer research program taught by Stanford academics, where students learn to apply artificial intelligence to real-world challenges, including AI-driven medical research and public innovation.

Application Deadline: March 1- [Application Link](#)

Families interested in this exciting opportunity are encouraged to apply soon!



SPREAD THE LOVE

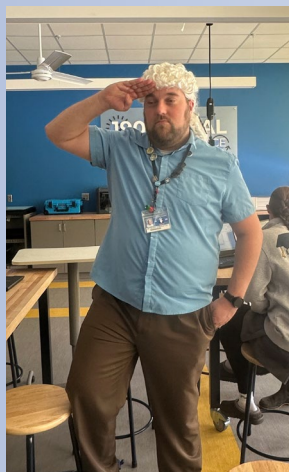
HAPPY VALENTAILS FUNDRAISER

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

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.

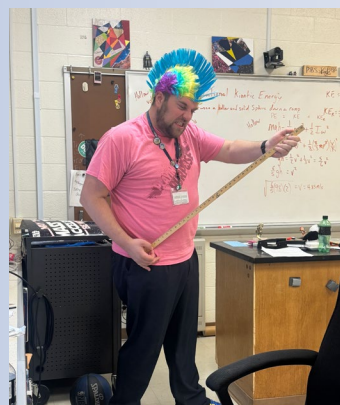


SERVICE, SCHOOL SPIRIT & A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR! **CHALLENGE ACCEPTED... AND DELIVERED!**

One of our own, Mr. Patrick Strickley (proud member of the St. Joan of Arc family), made a bold promise during our fall canned food drive: If his family brought in the most canned goods, he'd wear a wig to school for a week with wigs chosen by students and coworkers.

Well... the St. Joan of Arc family won and Strickley did not disappoint.

Meet Mr. Strickley as Miku, Ariel, a founding father and more!



**Way to show
your spirit
St. Joan of Arc
Family!**



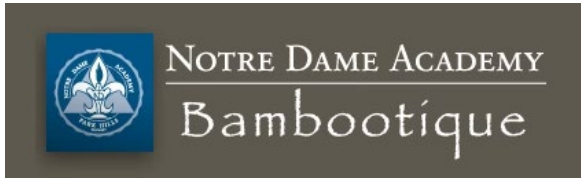
ORDER TODAY **YEARBOOK NEWS**

NDA's 2026 yearbook, is available to order at [jostens.com](https://www.jostens.com). 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!

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
PLEASE READ**

PLANNING AHEAD **COURSE REGISTRATION WEEK BEGINS**

This is an important week for planning for next year. The PowerSchool Class Registration page is open this week for students to enter their elective class requests for next year. The faculty have already entered recommendations for the required core subjects based on their discussions with their students. Parents are encouraged to work through the course request process with their daughters. Instructions for completing the course requests were sent to the students last week and can be found on the NDA web page by following the [Resources > PowerSchool](#) link. They are located in the PowerSchool Course Registration Information section on the bottom half of the page. The Class Registration window is open each day this week from 3:00–9:00 P.M. through Friday night.



TREAT YOUR VALENTINE!

SHOP THE BAMBOOTIQUE

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. Visit the Bambootique in person or shop [ONLINE](#) today and treat your Panda Valentine!



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.

*Please note: scholarship information for current students will be in next week's Panda Press Weekly.



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.



February 16, 2026 only!

PRESIDENTS' DAY WARM-UP SALE

30% OFF

Leggings • Hosiery • Sweaters

Cold weather essentials at hot savings!
Stock up on the styles you'll wear
all season long.

Special Monday Hours
Our retail stores are OPEN Presidents' Day
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Also ~ **30% off Pants &
40% off Shoes (in stock only)**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SCHOOLBELLES SALE

Schoolbelles' next sale will take place on Monday, February 16, 2026. Families are encouraged to make sure they are registered with Schoolbelles so they will receive the official sale notification and important details.

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.

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](#).

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.

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 with your name, area of expertise and contact information.

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](mailto: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](mailto:Ms.Dooling) for more details.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

PANDA ATHLETICS

Archery

Notre Dame turned in a strong performance this weekend at Mary Queen of Heaven, bringing home the 2nd Place High School Team Trophy!

Jade Wachs medaled with a 5th place individual finish

7 archers placed in the Top 16

The archers have a bye weekend and will be preparing for their remaining events leading into postseason competition. Keep up the great work, Archers!



Bowling

Our Panda Bowlers wrapped up a historic season with their first-ever trip to the KHSAA State Tournament and an outstanding Final Four finish!

The team advanced to the Top 4 before falling to Boyle County in the baker match. We are incredibly proud of everything this team accomplished this season.

We also had two individual state qualifiers:

Clare Pelstring

Alyssa Bechtol



Out of only 32 girls statewide to qualify, these two represented NDA with pride. While their state run ended sooner than hoped, they made school history as our first state qualifiers — with many great years still ahead! Great work, Pandas!

Basketball

The Notre Dame Basketball team battled hard on Friday night in a neutral-site game at Covington Catholic, falling to Ryle 51–57.

The team bounced back with a strong win in the Campbell Classic, defeating Bishop Brossart 63–53.

Joslyn LaBordeaux-Humphreys was named Player of the Game for Notre Dame.

Upcoming Games:

Wednesday, Feb. 11 – Home vs. Beechwood

Friday Night – Senior Night vs. St. Henry

Come out and support the Pandas!



PANDA ATHLETICS CONTINUED

Swim & Dive

We are incredibly proud of our AquaPandas following an outstanding performance at the KHSAA State First Round!

A special congratulations to Clare Herfel, who broke her own pool and school records in the 500 Free with an incredible time of 4:50.20!

The following athletes have advanced to the KHSAA State Finals on February 21 at the University of Kentucky:

Reaghan Connelly – 100 Breast (17th)
Danaka Tucker – 200 Free (7th); 500 Free (3rd)
Liv Wallace – 200 Free (11th); 100 Free (12th)
Savannah Bien – 1-Meter Diving (2nd)
Abby Carnes – 200 IM (4th); 100 Back (6th)
Makayla Kleman – 200 Free (15th); 500 Free (7th)
McKenna Bien – 50 Free (13th); 100 Fly (12th)
Caroline Gollar – 100 Breast (19th)
Lily Graham – 1-Meter Diving (16th)
Clare Herfel – 200 Free (2nd); 500 Free (1st)
Caroline Dusing – 1-Meter Diving (28th)

Relay Teams Advancing:

200 Medley Relay – 4th
200 Free Relay – 3rd
400 Free Relay – 2nd



Outstanding job to all swimmers and divers — we are so proud of your hard work and success!

Reminders

Spring Athlete Parent Meeting

March 2
5:45 – 6:30 PM
Theater

Save the Date — NDA Athletics Golf Outing

June 5, 2026

Kenton County Golf Course

18-hole and 9-hole options available
Start getting your foursomes together!

Softball

Calling all 7th and 8th grade girls from NDA feeder schools!
Now's your chance to be part of the NDA softball program, no experience needed, just a willingness to learn, grow, and have fun with an amazing team.

Practice begins February 16

Interested or have questions? Email Coach Mickie at
terrym@ndapandas.org

Come discover the sisterhood, build confidence, and play the game at NDA!



COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

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 or Jessica Brown at jbrown@covcath.org with questions.

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.

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.



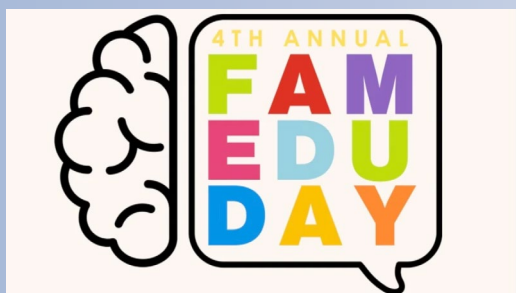
CAREER FAIR



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 and she can help make the appointment.



SUPPORTING YOUR FAMILY

ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION FAMILY EDUCATION DAY

Join 1N5 and MindPeace for a day of expert-led learning, discovering helpful resources, and exploring practical ways to support your family's mental wellness - all with admission to the Cincinnati Zoo! Parents and caregivers are encouraged to attend with or without their child(ren). Cost is \$15/person and includes breakfast, lunch, parking, and all day zoo admission (scholarships are available if cost is prohibitive). Use [this link to sign up](#).



SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY TODAY!

DRUG FREE CLUB SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

Attention all Drug Free Club Members - the yearly scholarship contest has begun. To be eligible, you must be a member of Drug Free Club and submit a one page, typed essay answering one of the following questions

- How has Drug Free Clubs of America affected or changed your family, school, community, or friends and yourself?
- For multi year members - How do you view the club differently from the beginning to now?

Essays must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on February 23 to Mrs. Maggard. Either digital or hard copy formats are accepted. There is also a brief application that must be filled out and turned in with the essay. Students have all received the application and instructions via their grade level Counseling Google Classroom.

SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY TODAY!

HOW TO HELP WHEN FRIENDSHIPS BREAKUP

While most of us know the importance of being supportive when a romantic relationship breaks up, it can be easy to forget that teens need potentially even more support when a friendship breaks up. For tips on what to say and how to provide that support to your teen [read this article from the Child Mind Institute](#).



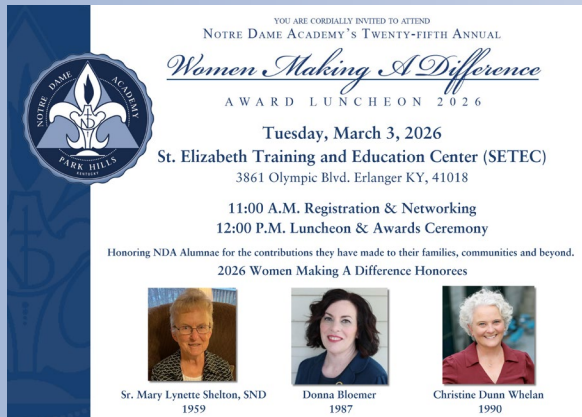
**Child Mind
Institute**

Advancing the Mission

Register today!

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](#).



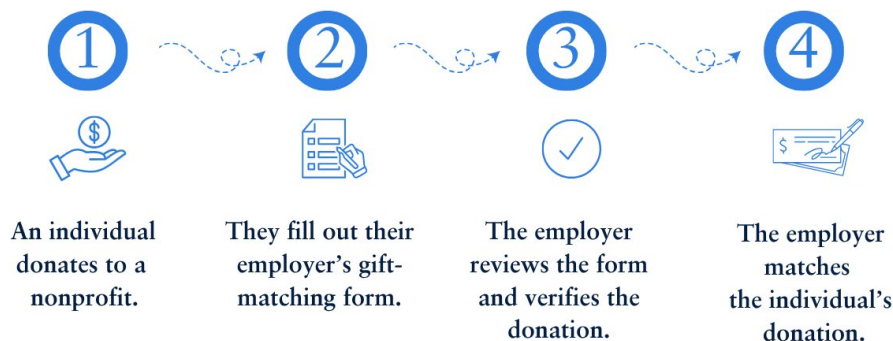
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT

Now is a great time to make your Annual Fund gift to Notre Dame Academy, supporting our students and keeping tuition manageable. A matching gift for that donation, can double or even triple your impact at no additional cost. Many employers match charitable contributions made by employees, retirees, or even spouses. Check [here](#) for your company.

We are grateful to the companies that matched gifts from our NDA families last year, including **AbbVie, Bank of America, Fidelity, Fifth Third Bank, Shell Oil, Baird, U.S. Bank, Duke Energy, and Bank of New York Mellon**. Their partnership amplifies the generosity of our community.

*Doubling, or Tripling, your
impact is easy!*

The Matching Gift Process



BREAKFAST FOR A PURPOSE

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us for the Fr. Kehoe Council Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast benefiting the Sisters of Notre Dame and ACUE schools on Sunday, February 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at NDA. Enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice — plus great company — all while supporting a meaningful cause.

Tickets: \$8 for adults | \$5 for children | Proceeds benefit: the Sisters of Notre Dame Uganda Mission and ACUE schools of the Diocese of Covington



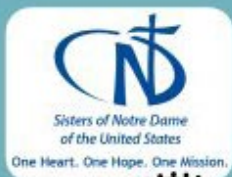
*Fr. Kehoe Council Knights of Columbus
and the Sisters of Notre Dame*

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 15 8:30a-1:00p

Notre Dame Academy 1699 Hilton Drive Park Hills, KY

\$8 Adults \$5 Children



**Proceeds benefit the
Sisters of Notre Dame
Uganda Mission and
the ACUE schools of the
Diocese of Covington**

**ALL are welcome.
We hope to see you
there!**



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

| | |
|-------------|---|
| February 11 | JETS Competition |
| February 12 | Out of Uniform for Valentails Fundraiser - 1 Item or \$5 |
| February 15 | SND/Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast |
| February 16 | No School - President's Day |
| February 18 | Ash Wednesday Mass SND Day of Reconciliation Retreat |
| February 19 | Alumnae Rosary |
| March 3 | Career Day Women Making A Difference Luncheon |
| March 7 | Incoming Freshman Conferences |
| March 10 | Super Day-Senior Mission Retreat, Sophomore Ring Ceremony |
| March 12 | End of 3rd Quarter National Latin Exam |
| March 14 | Incoming Freshman Conferences |
| March 19 | Panda Preview Night for 6th & 7th Graders |