



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

May 7, 2025

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe how quickly this final stretch of the school year is moving. From classroom learning to campus traditions, these last weeks are full of meaning—and momentum.

This week at NDA, we are celebrating Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week. It has been a joy to honor the outstanding teachers and staff members who make our school so special. Being part of a Catholic school is more than a profession—it's a vocation. Our Catholic educators instill hope, form hearts, and change lives. Thank you for all the ways you join us in recognizing their impact.

Last Friday, our faith community gathered for one of NDA's most beloved traditions—our annual May Crowning Mass. It was a beautiful celebration of our Catholic identity and our shared devotion to Mary, the patroness of our school. This year, senior Maddie Janszen had the honor of crowning Mary, and Marissa Bloehmer carried the crown in procession. The honor guard consisted of Josie Bozeman, Annie Dierker, Hannan Dusing, and Leah Franzen. We also welcomed new students and staff into the tradition of the Miraculous Medal, with medals distributed by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

On Wednesday, we held our Academic Signing to celebrate members of the Class of 2024 who have received college scholarship offers totaling half tuition or more. An impressive group of 57 seniors (50% of the class) were recognized. Their hard work—and the education they've received here at NDA—is something to be proud of.

Next week, we will continue celebrating student achievement at our annual Academic Awards Ceremony for students in grades 9 through 11. Invitations have been mailed to families of students who will be recognized. A separate celebration for seniors will take place at the Senior Awards Breakfast on May 23.

As always, thank you for all you do to support your daughters and the mission of Notre Dame Academy. Have a great week!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



Have a great day and make good choices!

CAMPUS MINISTRY

LIVING THE MISSION OF NDA

HONORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS FOR SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

We are delighted to announce Bella McElwee, Class of 2027, is being recognized by the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) and InnerView in the eighth Annual Community Service Impact Awards. This program, open to all U.S. students, has been designed to connect student community service activities, skill development, and commitment to the Global Goals to transform our world. The Kroger Co. is presenting the sixth annual Zero Hero Awards to students for taking action to help create communities free of hunger and waste.



GATHERING IN FAITH

NDA HONORS PATRONESS AT MAY CROWNING

Last Friday, our faith community came together for our annual May Crowning Mass—a cherished tradition that honors our patroness, Mary. This special celebration is a time for our school to reflect on our mission as a community rooted in faith and dedicated to the example of the Blessed Mother.

As is tradition at NDA, the honor of crowning Mary was given to a senior who submitted a heartfelt reflection about the Blessed Mother and her influence as a role model. This year, Maddie Janszen had the honor of crowning Mary, while Marissa Bloehmer carried the crown in procession. The honor guard—Josie Bozeman, Annie Dierker, Hannan Dusing, and Leah Franzen also offered beautiful reflections and demonstrated deep devotion to Mary.

As the liturgy continued, another beloved NDA tradition was celebrated: new students and staff received the Miraculous Medal, distributed by the Sisters of Notre Dame with help from faculty and staff.

It was a beautiful and prayerful celebration of our Catholic identity, our shared traditions, and our enduring connection to Mary, who continues to inspire the mission and spirit of Notre Dame Academy.



JOIN US!

FINAL SCHOOL LITURGIES:

- May 9 - Mass for the Conclave - 7:20 a.m.
- May 13 - Mass for the Senior Class - 7:20 a.m.
- May 16 - Mass at 7:20 a.m.
- A decade of the rosary will be prayed at 7:45 am on May 8, 12, & 15.



Student Life



TUESDAY, MAY 13

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Notre Dame Academy's 48th annual Academic Awards Night will take place on Tuesday, May 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the NDA Theatre. We look forward to celebrating the many academic accomplishments of our students, including awards for Academic Excellence, departmental honors, the Governor's Scholars Program, and more.

Students receiving awards should arrive by 6:30 p.m. Invitations were emailed earlier this week to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors who will be recognized. Please note that RSVPs must be submitted by the student from her NDA email account so they can be counted accurately.

Additional awards are still coming in, so families are encouraged to continue checking their email in case a new invitation is sent.

AN NDA TRADITION

CLEANING DAY

On Thursday, May 22 the Annual Cleaning Day will occur at NDA. This has been a long standing tradition initiated by the sisters and spearheaded by our very own Sister Paul Ann and Sister Rachel for years. The NDA philosophy is that we take care of and show respect for our building and that all students must contribute to the upkeep and cleaning of the school on this one day of the year. Seniors will be exempt from cleaning day as they practice and prepare for graduation. All other students should plan to report to school from 10:15 until 11:45 for their cleaning day shift. Assignments will be distributed by Mrs. Timmerding in the coming week. Thank you in advance for helping to continue this tradition.



HEART SAFE SCHOOL

C.E.R.P. DRILL

On Tuesday, our teachers and students reviewed our Cardiac Emergency Response Plan as we do annually at this time of the year. We are very fortunate to be designated as a "Heart Safe School" through Project Adam and the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. As part of this designation, we must continue to educate and practice the appropriate responses in the event of a cardiac emergency. Our students reviewed with their teachers and one homeroom went through the process of alerting school officials, calling 911, taking notes, and administering CPR. We greatly value these experiences which keep us thinking, prepared, and informed about what would need to happen in the event of such an emergency. A special thanks to Mrs. Sizemore and Ms. Neubacher who work hard to oversee this drill and the upkeep of our eight AEDs on campus.

Project ADAM[®]
SAVES LIVES

VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!

TIME TO VOTE!

LET'S HONOR OUR ATHLETES

Please be sure to vote for our Athletes of the Week. You can vote [here](#)! Be sure to vote from your phones and vote once every hour.

Notre Dame softball – They beat Conner 8-6 in the only game they played last week.

Notre Dame lacrosse – The Pandas edged Assumption 15-14 and beat Summit Country Day 17-4 to stay undefeated at 13-0.

Hannah Powers, lacrosse – Powers accounted for more than half of the Pandas' scoring on Saturday, scoring eight goals and adding an assist in a 17-4 win.

Ava Auberger, softball – The senior powered the Pandas to a win over Conner with two doubles, five RBIs and a run.

Thank you for helping to honor our athletes!

THE ANXIOUS GENERATION BY JONATHAN HAIDT CONSIDERING POLICY CHANGE

Earlier this semester, the author of *The Anxious Generation* was available for a presentation with various administrators from the greater Cincinnati area. He spoke about his text and the research that he has discovered regarding the detriments of students using cell phones and social media. The current cell phone policy at NDA is that students must have their phones off and away from 8-3, however we know that this is not foolproof. We are considering the implementation of a new policy for the upcoming school year. To prepare for a change, we are inviting students, parents, staff, and faculty to read this book and view the attached presentation. Should you be interested in providing feedback after reviewing the materials mentioned, please watch upcoming Panda Press Weekly's for more information. We hope to provide forums where the text and presentation will be discussed and parents can provide feedback regarding policy review and various viewpoints.

The presentation by the author is linked [here](#) and is very eye opening in and of itself.

"GOOD AFTERNOON PANDAS!"

THE PASSING OF THE PA

The Co-Presidents of this year (Maya Lawrie and Kate Harris) passed over the PA and the announcements to our Co-Presidents for the 2025-2026 school year, Lila Harris and Teagan Kruer. We look forward to their leadership and entertaining announcements and we thank Maya and Kate for the incredible dedication and hard work this year.

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.

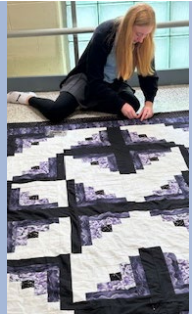
IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
PLEASE READ

PLEASE NOTE!



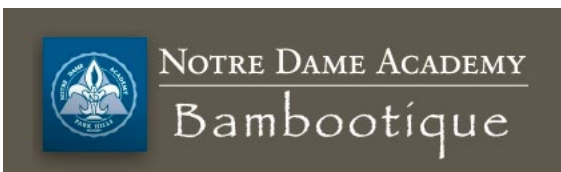
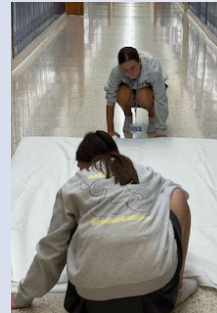
TASTY NEWS! FOOD TRUCK FUN

On Friday, May 2, NDA rang in the last month of school with our Spring Food Truck Day sponsored by our Student Council. The girls described it as, "the best food truck day in NDA history." We enjoyed food from Better Blends, Marty's Waffles, Chicken Mac, and Wild Side Experience. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food options. Thank you to our Student Council students and moderators Ms. Hilbert and Mrs. Kroger for planning and preparing for this special day.



SEW GOOD TEXTILES STUDENTS READY TO SHINE AT ARTS FEST 2025!

The work of the Textiles I and Textiles II classes will be showcased at the upcoming Fine Arts Fest. Please be sure to stop by to see their hard work displayed for all to see. We are blessed to have such an amazing program for our girls.



NDA BAMBOOTIQUE PANDA SPIRIT WEAR

The Bambootique is having a 20% off your entire order Easter sale. Fill up your daughter's Easter basket with Panda gear. Shop online [HERE](#).



SPirit AND DETERMINATION

PANDAS WRAP UP FLAG FOOTBALL SEASON WITH GRIT AND GRATITUDE

Saturday was a soggy day of flag football as the spring flag football club season ended with NDA hosting all six schools in one last game. Sadly, the PaNDAs were defeated by the Seton Saints, but they had fun competing in the wet conditions. Thank you to Mr. Strickley and Mr. Cerimele for working hard with our football players this year. Roll PaNDAs!



CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

ACADEMIC SIGNING HONORS CLASS OF 2025 SCHOLARS

On Tuesday, May 6, Notre Dame Academy held an Academic Signing in honor of the Class of 2025 for their outstanding academic achievements. Each of the 57 seniors signing at the event is receiving at least half the cost of tuition through scholarships and grants at the institution she plans to attend. That is 50% of the Class of 2025. A short reception in celebration of the students followed the signing event in Alumnae Hall.

DELICIOUS NEWS!

WEEKLY LUNCH MENU

As we near the end of the school year, we kindly ask parents to check their student's lunch account balance and ensure any outstanding amounts are paid in full.

For parents of seniors, if you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact [Karen Brungs](#) directly.

Thank you for your attention to this important end-of-year task!



Attention Seniors



IMPORTANT DATES FOR SENIORS

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Attention Seniors and Senior Parents: Fourth quarter is just around the corner which means graduation is nearing! Mark your calendars for the following dates -

- May 5 - 16 - AP Exams (specific schedule to come soon)
- May 6 - Academic Signing @ 4:15 p.m. - Theatre
- May 7 OR 9 - Senior Pancakes - Theatre Lot (students only)
- May 14 - Senior Luncheon @ 12:00 p.m. - Alumnae Hall, Theater, Auditorium (students only)
- May 14 - Senior Sendoff @ 2:00 p.m. - Auditorium (students only)
- May 15 and May 16 - Senior Exams
- May 21 - Graduation practice at NDA @ 12:30 p.m.
- May 22 - Graduation practice at NKYCC @ 8:30 a.m.
- May 22 - Baccalaureate Mass at St. Agnes @ 7:00 p.m. (students and families)
- May 23 - Senior Breakfast at Receptions in Erlanger @ 8:30 a.m. (students and guardians)
- May 23 - Graduation at Northern Kentucky Convention Center @ 4:00 p.m. (ticket amount TBD)

A more detailed letter will be sent in the coming weeks, but we wanted to get these dates to you as soon as possible. You won't want to miss a thing! Seniors will gather during homeroom also in the coming weeks to learn a bit more about graduation.

INFO FOR CLASS OF 2025

SENIOR EVENTS INFO AND SENIOR BREAKFAST

Our celebration of Seniors has begun. A reference sheet was shared with students regarding all of the remaining events of the school year and special info about various days. This sheet (linked below) also includes information about students' attire for each event as that has been a burning question from all of them. In addition, there is a letter for parents which includes the registration link for the Senior Breakfast which will occur on May 23 at 8:30 at Receptions. Please see the letter and register; students do not need to register or pay.

Finally, we are very fortunate to have quite a few Blue Gown Girls to lead our graduates at the Graduation Ceremony. If there are conflicts and a Blue Gown Girl can no longer attend, please inform Mrs. Litmer and Mrs. Heidrich immediately so they can plan accordingly.

We look forward to celebrating these incredible young women as they soon become the NDA Class of 2025.

[SENIOR CLASS End of Year Reminders 2025.pdf](#)

[Senior Breakfast 2025.docx.pdf](#)

Attention
Class of 2025!



ATTENTION SENIOR PARENTS

YEARBOOK NEWS

* Senior parents! You can create recognition ads for your daughter for the 2025 NDA Yearbook beginning Thursday through June 7. Visit [Jostens.com](https://jostens.com), click "My School Store" and select Notre Dame Academy to get started. Ads are easy and fun to create and start at just \$75.



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

SUPPORT FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

The U.S. Congress is currently considering the Educational Choice for Children Act, a bill that would create a scholarship tax credit program at the federal level. If passed, students in all 50 states would be eligible to receive scholarship funds—providing vital support to families seeking a Catholic education for their children.

As many of you know, Kentucky failed to pass Amendment 2 last fall, and our state is falling behind national school choice efforts. This makes it increasingly difficult for families to afford Catholic school tuition and for our parishes to continue their generous subsidies.

This week, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued an action alert, encouraging Catholics to urge their representatives to support this important legislation during the upcoming budget reconciliation process.

You can send your message in just a few minutes by visiting the USCCB's action alert page:

<https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/125894/Respond>

Want to learn more about the bill? Visit the American Federation for Children:

<https://www.federationforchildren.org/national-school-choice>

Every voice matters. Please consider taking action—and keeping this effort in your prayers.

ATTENTION SENIOR PARENTS

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Something all teens experience is stress, so knowing how to help your child can be incredibly beneficial. The local group 1N5, in conjunction with Cincinnati Children's Hospital's Dr. Lynne Merk, created a video that explores how to recognize when stress is no longer healthy or manageable. Dr. Merk walks through the signs and symptoms that stress may be becoming problematic for your teen, what to look for, and what to do about it. View the video by clicking the link [here](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2025-26 CALENDAR NEWS

The academic calendar for next year is being finalized and will be shared with the departments this week. The academic calendar for next year is being finalized and will be shared with the departments this week. The “No School” calendar is located in the blue table below. If you have specific questions, feel free to contact the office staff.



Important Dates for 2025-26!

2025 - 2026 - Summer Dates / Back to School Dates

Week of July 28 - iPad	Orientation for Incoming Freshmen
August 4 (morning) -	Freshmen Bridge
August 5 (morning) -	Freshmen Bridge
August 6 (morning) -	Freshmen Bridge
August 7 (morning) -	Freshmen Bridge
August 7 (evening) -	Parent Information Night (all grade levels)
August 8 (9-12:00) -	Freshmen Orientation

NEW EVENT! SAVE THE DATE!

Class of 2029 PaNDAs! Mark your calendar for the afternoon of Friday, August 8 for the Class of 2029 PaNDA FunFest! This event (that is just for our incoming freshmen) will begin immediately after Freshman Orientation and will start with lunch (provided by NDA), followed by an afternoon of fun, games, and entertainment! This will be a GREAT chance to get to know your classmates better and celebrate the Class of 2029! More details will follow as we finalize the schedule this summer. Stay tuned!

August 12	First Day of School
January 5	School Resumes (after Christmas)
April 13	School Resumes (after Spring Break)
May 22	Last Day of School
May 22	Graduation

No School Dates 2025-2026

No School Dates 2025-2026

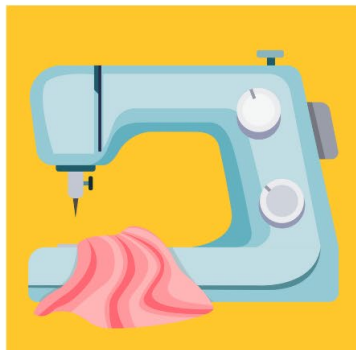
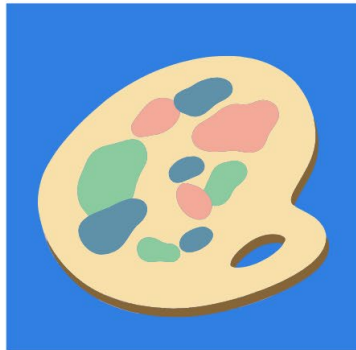
August 15 Feast of Assumption
September 1 Labor Day
October 9 PD Day - PD for Faculty
October 10 PD Day
November 26 PD Day
November 27 Thanksgiving Break
November 28 Thanksgiving Break
December 8 Immaculate Conception
December 22 Christmas Break
January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 16 Presidents' Day
March 13 PD Day
April 2 - April 12 Easter Break

FINE ARTS

CELEBRATE THE ARTS AT NDA

JOIN US FOR NDA'S ARTS FEST!

Celebrate the creativity and talent of our students at Arts Fest on May 15 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at NDA! Enjoy an evening filled with music, movement, and visual artistry. Don't miss this showcase of artistic excellence at NDA. For event planning purposes, please register for the event [here](#).



FREE EVENT. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, PLEASE REGISTER.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

ART STUDENTS EXPLORE CREATIVITY

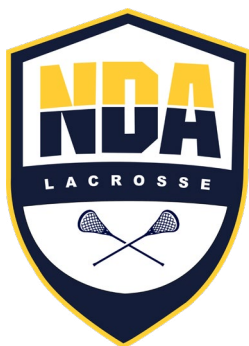
Notre Dame Academy's art classes recently enjoyed an exciting two-day field trip filled with creativity, inspiration, and hands-on learning. On the first day, the Art 3 and AP Art students traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, where they began with a tour of the Kentucky School of Art and Design. Students explored the campus and studio spaces, gaining insight into college-level art programs and what it's like to pursue a degree in the visual arts. They then visited the Speed Art Museum, where they viewed a wide range of artwork from classical to contemporary, followed by a tour of the University of Louisville's art department and student galleries. These experiences gave students valuable exposure to professional and academic art environments.



The second day featured a trip to Cincinnati, Ohio, for the Art 2 students. Their first stop was the Taft Museum of Art, where they explored historic works in an intimate and elegant setting. The group then visited the 21c Museum Hotel, where contemporary installations and interactive exhibits blended seamlessly with the hotel's unique atmosphere. The day concluded at the Contemporary Arts Center of Cincinnati, where students engaged with innovative, thought-provoking works by living artists. Throughout the trip, our students were guided by enthusiastic and knowledgeable docents who brought each exhibit to life. We returned to Notre Dame Academy energized and full of fresh inspiration to bring back into our studios and classrooms.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Lacrosse -

Lacrosse played the first round of the Regional tournament on Tuesday against Dixie. They currently have a 14 -1 record! They advance to the Region Finals and have secured a spot in the State Sweet 16 tournament! They play on Monday May 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Cooper. Come out and cheer them on to victory!

Softball -

Softball beat Scott High School on Tuesday. They will play Grant county at Grant County tonight. On Thursday they will play at Highlands at 5:30 p.m. On Friday they depart for their annual Boyle County Tournament and will be playing 2 games on Saturday. Currently their record is 10 - 3!

Tennis -

The JV team won the Regional tournament this past weekend. This weekend our tennis team is hosting the first round of the regional tournament at Notre Dame on Saturday beginning at 1:00.

Track and Field


Track and Field had another successful meet at the Bronco Classic held at Frederick Douglass High School. Today the team is hosting their Annual Jim Parsons Middle School Regional Meet at 4:30 at Notre Dame. The JV team will participate in a meet at Cooper High School Thursday. Then Friday the Varsity team will be at Mason High School.

It is a busy time with lots of great things happening! Please be sure to come out and support our teams!

Golf Outing -

The 27th Annual Notre Dame Academy Athletic Department Golf Outing will be on June 6th at Kenton County. This outing supports all athletic teams at Notre Dame and we need your support, through Sponsorships! Please consider a tee sign (\$100) or a personalized flag 9 (\$250) with your Notre Dame Student or business displayed on it! For those of you who golf, come out and enjoy the day with us. We offer a 18 hole event and a 9 hole FUN event for you too!

[REGISTER HERE](#)




Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

GOLF OUTING





Kenton County Golf Course

6 JUNE, 2025

18 HOLES - 8AM - \$150

9 HOLES - 10AM - \$90





Scan the QR
to register!

ADVANCING THE MISSION

 **CALLING ALL
ALUMNAE**
IT'S TIME FOR

Girls' Schools Unite!



ATTENTION ALUMNAE

GIRLS' SCHOOLS UNITE

Just a few hours left for Girls' Schools Unite! This friendly fundraising competition among the Catholic all-girls high schools in the area focuses on building support through alumnae participation in the Annual Fund and ends at midnight tonight. Every gift, no matter the size, helps empower our students and strengthens the NDA community. Encourage the Notre Dame women in your life to donate in honor of their favorite NDA memory, their class year, or the Sisters. Give an amount with their year in it like \$19.95 or an amount with a 4 or 5 to honor the 5 Sisters living on the 4th floor. Every gift makes a difference!

DONATE BUTTON- <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/NDAGSU>

VENMO BUTTON - <https://www.venmo.com/u/NotreDame-Academy>



LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR NDA! SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date! Notre Dame Academy's Light the Night for NDA is set for October 4 from 6 p.m.–10 p.m. at The Madison Event Center. This unforgettable evening is our largest fundraiser of the year, supporting the students and mission of NDA. Mark your calendars. If you want to get involved or help support please reach out to Myanna Webster at websterm@ndapandas.org or one of our chairs, Tracy Stacy, Laura Mauller or Heather Ramsey.



SHARING OUR Community News

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

- AI and Applied Mathematics Summer Camp
- Tech Recycling

Important dates

May 8	A decade of the rosary will be prayed at 7:45 a.m. Alumnae Rosary 12:47 p.m. All are welcome! Sips and Stems- Alumnae Hall
May 9	Mass for the Conclave - 7:20 a.m.
May 10	Senior Dinner Dance- Auditorium/Cafeteria
May 12	A decade of the rosary will be prayed at 7:45 a.m. Faculty Send Off
May 13	Mass for the Senior Class - 7:20 a.m. Seniors - Last Day of Classes Academic Awards - Auditorium
May 14	Senior Luncheon Senior Send off - Auditorium
May 15	A decade of the rosary will be prayed at 7:45 a.m. Senior Exams NDA Arts Fest 5:30 p.m.
May 16	Mass at 7:20 a.m. Senior Exams
May 17	Theatre Banquet
May 19	Exams begin
May 21	Class of 2025 Picture - NDA Field at 11:45
May 22	Last Day of School Cleaning Day Baccalaureate Mass - St. Agnes
May 23	Senior Breakfast - Receptions Graduation