



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

June 18, 2025

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Parents,

As we close out the 2024–25 school year, I want to take a moment to thank our students, families, faculty and staff for making this year one filled with growth and a strong commitment to our shared mission.

As many of you know, this is my final year at Notre Dame Academy, and I will be retiring at the end of this month. Serving as principal of NDA over the past ten years has been one of the greatest privileges of my professional life. I am grateful beyond words for the trust and partnership of this incredible community. NDA is a place where faith, excellence and leadership come together in extraordinary ways—and this year has been no exception.

Together, we successfully completed our reaccreditation process, launched a new five-year strategic plan, and watched our students continue to grow in faith, wisdom and confidence. The Class of 2025 leaves behind a legacy of excellence and integrity. With nearly \$18 million in scholarships and offers from 32 colleges and universities, this class has been both academically prepared and spiritually empowered. I have no doubt they will go on to make a difference in the world—alongside our rising seniors, juniors, sophomores, and the incoming Class of 2029.

This year's theme, *Love God. Love Others. Change the World.*, has guided us every step of the way. I was especially blessed to experience that theme in action earlier this month by joining our students and chaperones on NDA's mission trip to the Dominican Republic. We served at the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanage and worked alongside members of the local community on improvement projects. The spirit of service, joy and faith that surrounded us was truly inspiring. This trip captured the heart of Catholic education and the mission we strive to live each day at NDA—rooted in the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame, who have taught us what it means to be servant leaders.

As I prepare to step away from this role, I do so with tremendous gratitude. NDA's future is bright, and I am confident that under the leadership of Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding, our new Principal, and Ms. Lauren Hitron, our new President, the school will continue to thrive.

Thank you again for allowing me to be part of your daughter's journey. Thank you for your support, your trust and your partnership over the past decade.

Wishing you and your family a joyful, restful and blessed summer.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



Have a great day and make good choices!

Student Life

Summer Office Hours at NDA

May 27 - 30 | 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

June 2 - 19 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

June 20 - July 9 | **CLOSED - Dead Period**

July 10 - August 1 | Mon. - Thurs. | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The School Office will be closed on Fridays in July.

August 4 - 11 | 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

See you
Tuesday,
August 12
for the first day
of school!



A PENTECOST BLESSING

NDA STUDENT RECEIVES SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

On Sunday, June 8, Kyla Monahan (sophomore) completed the Sacraments of Initiation at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption with Bishop Iffert on Pentecost. Kyla spent last school year reflecting and preparing for her First Communion and Confirmation. Along with many family members, quite a few of her classmates attended the mass to support Kyla in this next step in her faith journey. May God Bless Kyla!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

END OF YEAR REPORT CARDS SENT

The fourth quarter report card with the end of year GPA summary was sent last week. Both a digital copy was emailed and a paper copy was sent via USPS to the home address this quarter. School policy requires that report cards and other academic records be held for any outstanding balances owed. If you do not receive the report card, please contact the school office to see what might be owed and how to clear the balance. The school office summer hours are 9:00 until noon until June 19. The office will be closed during the athletic dead period from June 20 to July 9 and will reopen on July 10. Once the balance has been paid, the report card may be picked up in the office or it will be mailed. If a digital report card is more convenient, please contact Mr. Raymond Schlosser at schlosserr@ndapandas.org once the balance has been cleared.

PLEASE NOTE!

THE ANXIOUS GENERATION BY JONATHAN HAIDT FINALIZING CELL PHONE POLICY CHANGE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ

This past school year, 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. This presentation was shared with parents and teachers via the Panda Press in the hopes that a new cell phone policy would be the end result. 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 finalizing some updates to our cell phone policy and invite parents and teachers to attend one of two roundtable meetings to discuss the possible options. If you are interested in participating, please clear your calendar for Monday, July 28 from 5-7 or Wednesday, July 30 from 5-7. A reservation link will be included in the July Panda Press.

Please note - this past March, the Kentucky House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill with a goal of keeping students off of their phones during class. This bill now heads to the Senate. With this in mind, a change is most likely imminent, so our collaboration in supporting this change is crucial.

The presentation by the author is linked [here](#).



FELICITACIONES, SPANISH PANDAS! ¡OLÉ, PANDAS!

In the last Panda Press we published the names of the individual students who were recognized for their achievement in the National Spanish Exam. Now the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese has released the results according to each state. In the state of Kentucky Notre Dame Academy won more medals than any other school in the state, winning more bronze medals than any other school-- with 28 compared to Leestown Middle School (Lexington) with 14. Felicitaciones, Spanish Pandas!



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.

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



103 YEARS OF FESTIVAL FUN CELEBRATE THE SND'S

The Sisters of Notre Dame are preparing for a joyful and memorable celebration at this year's 4th of July Festival. This year holds special significance, as it marks not only the 103rd anniversary of this beloved festival—but also its final year.

We look forward to honoring the legacy of this festival one last time, with deep gratitude for the many memories shared over the decades. Money raised helps support the SND-sponsored education and health-care ministries, vocation/young adult ministry and our Global missions.

Mark your calendars and gather your friends and family—Friday, July 4, 2025, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

UNIFORMS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Approved Uniform pieces are listed below as stated in our Student/Parent Handbook:

Notre Dame Academy has a school uniform that consists of:

- a gray uniform skirt or uniform slacks (the skirt or pants must be the proper size and length, be zipped and buttoned, hemmed appropriately and free of stains, rips, and/or holes). Students are required to obtain a new skirt or pants if it no longer zips, has tears, holes, or stains. **Please note: Skirt should extend below student's fingertips when arms are fully extended at one's side.**
- a white or light blue banded Notre Dame Academy polo shirt
- solid white, gray, black or navy blue socks
- appropriate shoes that have a back to them
- name tag/lanyard



Optional items that may be purchased and worn with the uniform include:

- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy pullover sweater
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy cardigan sweater
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy sweater vest
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy sweatshirt (available for purchase through Schoolbelles and NDA's Bambootique)
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy fleece
- a navy blue blazer with NDA's emblem for special occasions such as Mass, award ceremonies, etc.
- gray, black, or navy blue leggings that are close fitting and tapered at the ankle
- black dress slacks for designated events

If you need to purchase new uniform pieces for next school year, visit Schoolbelles' website at <http://www.schoolbelles.com/myschool/M37/s1935> to purchase.



RE-BRANDED!

Notre Dame Academy's

PANDA Parent Club

The Panda Parent Club (PPC) is Notre Dame Academy's parent engagement initiative—and it's growing! Whether you're looking to lend a hand, make new friends, or help shape beloved NDA traditions, PPC is your place to get involved!

This year's PPC will include:

-  **Volunteer Opportunities:** Cafeteria, Bambootique, event support, and more
-  **Grade-Level Sponsored Events**
-  **Key Event Planning:** Mother/Daughter, Father/Daughter, After Prom Socials
-  **Quarterly Speakers & Parent Programs**

First PPC Meeting of 2025–2026

August 7 | Parent Night

Come meet other parents and learn how you can get involved!

***Watch for more information in upcoming editions
of the PaNDA Press!***



Whether you are



or you are just looking for



to do this summer,

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

has all sorts of

opportunities for you!

www.ndapandas.org

SO MUCH TO DO THIS SUMMER AT NDA ENRICHMENT CAMPS OFFER ART, STEM, MUSIC AND MORE!

Looking for ways to stay creative, active and inspired this summer? Notre Dame Academy is offering a wide range of summer enrichment opportunities for students of all interests—from art and music to STEM and athletics. Whether you're a computer whiz, an aspiring artist, a future engineer, or just looking for a fun and enriching way to spend your summer days, NDA has something for you!

Visual Arts Camps

High School Character Design and World Building

July 14–18 | 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. | Open to all current NDA students

Students will explore character design through drawing, storytelling, and painting in this one-week creative intensive. Camp includes supplies, instruction, and a custom t-shirt. Cost: \$350. [Register](#) Contact: fleuryh@ndapandas.org

STEM Camp

Robotics with Sphero BOLT

June 23–26 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Ages 9–14 | Girls and Boys

Unleash your creativity and dive into the world of robotics and coding with the Sphero BOLT! This hands-on camp will teach campers how to control their own robot, use its vibrant LED light matrix for fun displays, and communicate with other robots using infrared technology. Perfect for both beginners and those with coding experience, this camp will challenge all skill levels with exciting projects and activities. Whether you're new to coding or looking to expand your skills, you'll have a blast while learning valuable STEM concepts. [Register here.](#) Cost: \$200. Contact: Ms. Dooling at doolingm@ndapandas.org with questions.

Music Enrichment

Learn a Band Instrument (Free!)

Grades 7–12 | Mondays at 7:00–8:15 p.m. | Starting June 2

Join the NDA/CCH Summer Learning Band and learn a band instrument—no experience necessary! Instruments are provided. Contact Mr. Greg Cerimele at cerimeleg@ndapandas.org for details and rehearsal updates.

You can find more information as well as registration information on Summer Enrichment Programs at NDA [HERE](#).

A REFLECTION FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Earlier this month, several NDA students and chaperones traveled to the Dominican Republic on a mission trip rooted in faith, service and community. In the reflection below, rising senior Jacie Hail shares how this experience deepened her understanding of authentic service and what it means to live as the hands and feet of Christ.



During the first week of June, my classmates, chaperones, and I went on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic (DR), where we stayed and served at an orphanage called Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos. We also got to work at two different sites in the surrounding community, which we focused on improving alongside the local people. As a Spanish student, being immersed in the language was particularly special for me and gave me a new appreciation

for the culture. While in the DR, the immense value of service and community became apparent to me.

I have grown up knowing that service to others is at the core of the Catholic faith however, on this mission trip I realized the importance of intention with regard to service. Service with a spirit of personal gain or moral superiority is not service at all. Because we were working alongside the people that our work would have a positive impact on during this trip, it was easy to remember that service is for the good of the other. This experience showed me that authentic service is an opportunity to become the hands and feet of Christ and vessels of God's love for us.

The joy of the people my classmates and I were surrounded with in the DR, both at the orphanage and the work sites, was palpable. Spending time with the children at the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanage demonstrated to me that true joy is found within relationships with others and relationship with Christ. Though many of these kids face difficult circumstances in their personal lives, they know that they are not expected to face them alone — a fact that makes all the difference. Additionally, we were blessed to be able to attend Mass at a church in one of the towns close to the orphanage. Their passion for the faith was evident, especially in the music and preaching. This Mass gave me a greater understanding of the significance of community in the DR, as the people's care for one another was obvious and powerful, as well as the universality of the Church. Though we were the outsiders, I felt completely welcomed and accepted there. I am incredibly grateful to the community I was a part of in the Dominican Republic, and though it was only for a short time, I will carry the lessons I learned there into all aspects of my life at home.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

SEVERAL PANDAS NOMINATED FOR ENQUIRER HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS AWARDS:

NDA STUDENT-ATHLETES RECOGNIZED AMONG REGION'S BEST FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE ACROSS MULTIPLE SPORTS

Notre Dame Academy is proud to announce that several of our student-athletes have been nominated for the Cincinnati Enquirer's 2025 High School Sports Awards. The event, presented by Beacon Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine, will take place Wednesday, June 18, at Matthews Auditorium at Princeton High School.

This year's program will feature special appearances by Bengals Hall of Famer Anthony Muñoz and Fox 19's Joe Danneman, celebrating the region's top high school athletes, coaches, and teams across all sports.

NDA is honored to be represented by the following nominees:

- Softball: Abby Turnpaugh
- Girls Lacrosse: Andrea Carothers, Georgi Kirtley, Grace Panko, Hannah Powers
- Girls Tennis: Isabella McElwee and Malia Christensen (doubles)
- Girls Volleyball: Julia Grace, Ava Tilden
- Girls Swimming and Diving: Sadie Hartig, Clare Herfel, Liv Wallace
- Girls Archery: Ava Boertlein, Hayley Pelstring
- Girls Golf: Didi Jiradamkerng
- Girls Soccer: Megan McGraw
- Girls Basketball: Maya Lawrie



These students were selected based on performance, leadership, postseason honors, and overall contributions to their teams and the greater athletic community.

All nominees were invited to attend the June 18 ceremony and are eligible for special recognition at the July 13 Florence Y'alls baseball game, where finalists and winners will be honored.

We are incredibly proud of these young women for representing NDA with talent, character, and determination. Congratulations to all our Pandas on this well-deserved recognition!

Important dates

June 20 - July 9	Athletic Dead Period
July 10	Alumnae Rosary 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!
July 14-17	11th Annual Leadership Summit at NDA
July 28 - August 1	iPad Orientation for incoming Freshmen
August 4	College Application Workshop (3:30 - 5:00)
August 5	College Application Workshop (9-12)
August 7	Meet and Greet with President and Principal College Application Workshop (3:15-4:30pm) Parent Welcome Back Night for all grade levels Light the Night for NDA Freshmen Gift Gathering Party
August 8	Freshmen Orientation
August 12	First Day of School
August 14	College Application Workshop (3:15 - 4:30)
August 14	Opening School Mass
August 15	No School - Feast of the Assumption
August 14	College Application Workshop (7:30-8:45))
August 21	Alumnae Rosary
August 28	Light the Night for NDA Sophomore - Senior Gift Gathering Party
September 1	No School - Labor Day
September 4	Picture Day
September 9, 11	Feeder School Shadow Day
September 17	Donor Scholarship Breakfast
September 18	Alumnae Rosary
September 23, 15	Feeder School Shadow Day