



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

July 16, 2025

THE *nda* LIFE

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

Dear Panda Families,

Dear Panda Families,

I hope your summer has been filled with fun, family time, and maybe a little extra rest! It's been such a treat to see so many of our students back on campus recently. Their energy and love for NDA are truly contagious!

It's still a little surreal to be writing to you as principal of this incredible school that means so much to me. As a 1997 graduate, a proud NDA mom, and someone who deeply values the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame, stepping into this role feels both humbling and full of grace.

We've had an exciting summer at NDA! From international adventures in Italy to our mission trip to the Dominican Republic, our students continue to amaze and inspire us. I've loved hearing about their experiences—and seeing firsthand how they are growing into young women of faith, purpose, and confidence.

We welcomed our new President, Ms. Lauren Hitron, in July and our new CFO, Mr. Cliff Ludwig in June. Along with myself and Jane Kleier, our Chief Communications Officer, we make up the new Leadership Team at NDA—and we're here to support your daughters, every step of the way.

I'm also so happy to officially welcome our new assistant principal, Mrs. Stacey Gilliam Turner—my classmate from the NDA Class of 1997. She has already made quite an impression on the students and the faculty who have been on campus this summer. Her passion for Catholic education, the mission of NDA, and her love for working with youth are quite infectious!

Along with welcoming many new members to our faith community, there's been a great deal of work happening behind the scenes at NDA this summer. Roof maintenance is well underway, and we're making great progress on our brand-new 1906 IDEAL Innovation Space. We can't wait to see the impact it will have on our students' learning and creativity.

We hope you'll join us for our **Parent Information Night on Wednesday, August 7**. At this meeting, goals for the year will be highlighted, policies will be reviewed, new faculty and staff will be introduced, etc. Unlike past years, we will only offer one session for any parent of a young woman in any grade level. Please consider joining us! The evening will begin with a Meet and Greet from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.—a great opportunity to enjoy light appetizers and connect with our new president. The Parent Information Session will follow from 6:15 to 7 p.m., where you'll hear important updates about the upcoming school year. Then, from 7 to 8 p.m., we invite freshman parents to stay for our Freshman Gift Gathering Party—a fun way to meet other new families and support NDA!

Thank you for entrusting us with your daughter's high school journey. I'm beyond excited for this school year—and so grateful to be a part of the NDA family, once again.

In Notre Dame,

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97

Student Life



PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR VISIT TO CAMPUS

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS AT NDA

Notre Dame Academy's summer office hours are now in effect to help students and families prepare for the upcoming school year.

From July 10 through August 1, the school office is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please note that the office will be closed on Fridays throughout July.

Beginning August 4 through August 11, our hours will shift to 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to better accommodate back-to-school needs.

We encourage families to plan accordingly and reach out with any questions. We look forward to welcoming everyone back soon!



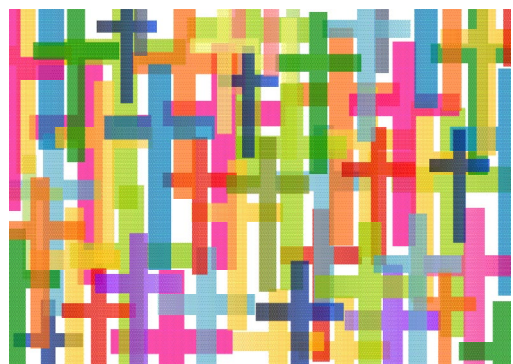
FRESHMAN GIVE BACK AND GROW TOGETHER

SERVICE, SISTERHOOD, AND SMILES AT FRESHMAN GIFT GATHERING

Notre Dame Academy's newest Pandas came together yesterday for a fun and hands-on afternoon of service. At their first official gathering, members of the Class of 2029 used old T-shirts to make chew toys for local animal shelters—combining creativity, compassion, and community spirit.

The service event offered incoming freshmen a chance to meet one another and ease first-day nerves while living out NDA's mission to serve others. Student Ambassadors and participants from this summer's Leadership Summit were on hand to guide activities and help welcome our newest students into the sisterhood.

Laughter filled the room as the girls braided fabric, bonded over shared interests, and discovered the power of giving back—together. It was a perfect start to their NDA journey!



MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER

CAMPUS MINISTRY INFORMATION

Summer is the perfect time to slow down, recharge, and give back! Whether you have a few free hours or a full day to spare, there are plenty of ways to serve others and make a meaningful impact in our community.

Check out this [link to the Service Opportunities](#) for current volunteer needs shared with NDA. The list will be updated regularly throughout the summer, so be sure to check back often!

Don't forget to log and verify all service hours through your MobileServe account. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Mrs. Bridget Price at priceb@ndapandas.org. Let your summer be a season of purpose and service!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ

THE ANXIOUS GENERATION BY JONATHAN HAIDT

FINALIZING UPDATES TO NDA'S CELL PHONE POLICY

This past school year, Notre Dame Academy shared insights from *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt—a powerful text exploring the impact of smartphones and social media on student mental health. Haidt spoke directly to a group of educators and administrators from across Greater Cincinnati, and his message was clear: reducing students' screen time is critical to their emotional well-being and academic success.

Currently, NDA's policy requires students to keep their phones off and put away from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., but we recognize that enforcement can be inconsistent and that a more structured approach may be needed.

As we finalize updates to our policy, we invite both parents and faculty to be part of the conversation. Two roundtable meetings will be held to gather feedback and discuss potential options:

Monday, July 28 from 5-7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 30 from 5-7 p.m.

To reserve your spot at one of the meetings, please complete this [Roundtable Reservation Form](#).

This conversation also aligns with growing momentum at the state level: in March, the Kentucky House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill aimed at limiting cell phone use during class time. That bill is now under Senate review, making change not just likely—but necessary.

Your voice matters as we work together to support our students' focus, wellness, and formation. To revisit Haidt's presentation, click [here](#).



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FINALFORMS ACCOUNTS

FinalForms Updates Needed for the 25-26 School Year

Notre Dame Academy partners with FinalForms, an online forms and data management service which allows you to complete and sign forms for your daughter(s) online. FinalForms saves data from year-to-year, meaning you will never need to enter the same information twice! You may review your data at any time throughout the year to verify that it is current. All parents and students are expected to use FinalForms and complete their updates for next year by July 5, 2025 (if participating in athletics) or by the first day of school. FinalForms is active now and if support is needed, please contact the school or office.

Students who want to participate in athletics must upload a valid, signed KH-SAA physical form in Final Forms before participating in any athletic activities, including conditioning workouts, open gyms and tryouts for all sports. The KHSAA physical form can be found [HERE](#). If you do not have a FinalForms account, please create one account at:

<https://notredameacademy-ky.finalforms.com>

and follow the prompts to create the parent account, begin your daughter's account and sign your forms. Your daughter's NDA gmail must be used when setting up her account. Once the parent/guardian creates the account, the student will be prompted in her NDA email to submit her forms. Please note: if you have already turned in your daughter's immunization record, you do not need to upload it separately. School personnel will upload it for you.

If a NDA student is struggling to login, click on the button "Login with Google." The username and password should then be recognized.

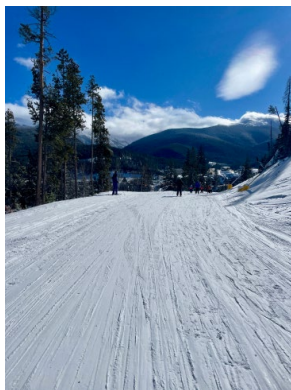
If you already have an account for a current NDA student and need to add another daughter: Login to your account and click MY STUDENTS to add another student to your account and make any updates for your returning student. Make sure you are updating information for the 25-26 school year. If you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Lisa Timmerding at timmerdingl@ndapandas.org.



ATTENTION JUNIORS AND SENIORS

PARKING PASSES

A Cognito form will be sent out to students in August in order for them to purchase their parking pass for the 2024-25 school year. Parking passes are \$50 for the year. Each student purchasing a parking pass will be expected to upload a picture of a valid driver's license before submitting this form. Please direct any questions you may have regarding our parking regulations to the school office.



REGISTRATION OPEN ANNUAL SKI TRIP



Registration is now open for NDA's 5th Annual Ski Trip to Winter Park, Colorado (January 15-19)! Fill out the form [HERE](#) to save your spot!! Registration is first come, first serve and will be open until August 30th or until all spots have been filled. The trip will be chaperoned by NDA faculty and staff. Email Ms. Dooling at doolingm@ndapandas.org with any questions.



EXPLORING ITALY'S TREASURES PANDAS ABROAD

In June, a group of 24 NDA students embarked on an 11-day Experience Italy EF tour led by Ms. Elizabeth Barnes and chaperoned by Mrs. Sammie Bezold, Ms. Julie Neubacher, and Ms. Lauren Meese. The journey included visits to iconic cities such as Rome, Assisi, Florence, and Venice, where students explored historic landmarks like the Colosseum, St. Peter's Basilica, the Uffizi Gallery, and St. Mark's Square. Along the way, they participated in immersive cultural activities including gladiator school, fresco painting, and traditional Italian cooking classes, which brought Italy's rich history and traditions to life. Guided by expert local guides, students gained a deeper appreciation for the country's artistic heritage and vibrant culture. This educational tour fostered global awareness, broadened perspectives, and created memories to last a lifetime.



FAITH IN ACTION SERVING WITH HEART IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Earlier this summer, 15 NDA students, chaperoned by Mr. VonHandorf and Stacey Bill, traveled to the Dominican Republic for a transformative mission trip rooted in the SND Educational Principles and centered on faith, service, and cultural connection. Working alongside local communities at an orphanage and nearby sites, students witnessed the dignity of every person and experienced the joy, resilience, and deep faith of those they served. This powerful opportunity to live out the Gospel reflected NDA's mission to empower young women committed to justice, peace, and responsible care for all God's creation.

NUMWORKS CALCULATOR REQUIRED FOR 2025–2026 MATH COURSES

Dear NDA Community,

In wrapping up the current 2024-2025 school year, the math department at Notre Dame Academy has also been reviewing our students' supplies list in preparation for next school year. You may recall that we highly encouraged the purchase of a NumWorks calculator in early August of last year, and we have found this device to be extremely beneficial for our students and their learning. With that being said, we wanted to communicate as early as possible to our families that **all students will be expected to have a NumWorks calculator for their math classes in the 2025-2026 academic year.**

For those who may be unfamiliar with NumWorks, it is a more modern and intuitive graphing calculator developed in collaboration with teachers and designed with today's students in mind. Inspired by the electronic devices that students use daily, this calculator's app-based design empowers them to explore and discover mathematics on their own. NDA's math department believes that equipping our students with this device will allow us to make math education accessible and approachable for all students.

The NumWorks graphing calculator is included on the list of permitted calculators for all College Board tests (PSAT, SAT, and AP) and it also meets the requirements for the ACT calculator policy. You can read more about exam compliance at <https://www.numworks.com/calculator/exams/>.

The NumWorks graphing calculator (intended to replace the TI-84) costs \$99, but there is also a FREE app version of the calculator for all phones, iPads, and laptops. The NDA math department was able to generate a discount code for any NDA students interested in purchasing this calculator at a discounted rate. More information about the NumWorks graphing calculator can be found at <https://www.numworks.com/>. We encourage you or your daughter to explore this option in preparation for the upcoming academic year.

Below is a 10% discount link that allows you to purchase a NumWorks graphing calculator for \$89.99 instead of the typical retail price of \$99.99. Please note that this link will expire on July 31st. All calculators purchased through this discount link will be shipped directly to school where students will receive their new calculators in their math classes.

https://my.numworks.com/group_orders/xb4ew3

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We hope everyone has a wonderful, relaxing summer!

Thank you,

Leslie Litmer

NDA Math Department Chair

litmerl@ndapandas.org

PLEASE NOTE:

2023 - 2024 YEARBOOK UPDATE

The 2023-2024 yearbooks are due to be finalized and delivered shortly after we return to school in August. We will provide more information once we know of an exact date. Please accept our apologies for the delay. There were some issues with printing which were out of our control.

Thank you for understanding!

SENIOR PORTRAIT TIME! SCHEDULE EARLY AND SAVE

PRESTIGE PORTRAITS NOW BOOKING FOR CLASS OF 2026

Parents of seniors: Prestige Portraits in Crestview Hills is again NDA's photographer for official senior portraits. Please try to schedule a portrait session with them at your earliest convenience; we would like to have the entire senior class photographed by October.

Seniors will be photographed in the traditional black drape, which the studio will provide, for the official portrait. Families may choose additional outfits/poses if they like

To schedule your session or for more information, visit:

<https://local.prestigeporraits.com/ky/crestview-hills/536-centre-view-blvd.html>

or call 513-772-2110. Prestige offers photo support 10-6 Monday through Thursday and 10-2 on Fridays, and is closed weekends.

START EARLY SAVE BIG!!

All students **MUST** come to Prestige Portraits for the yearbook photo.

ONE STOP!! Everything you need and anything you want your senior portraits to be all in one location. Our indoor/outdoor studio adds up to an AWESOME experience.

The Essential Session
Only \$30

\$10 June
\$15 July
\$20 August

Don't wait! Limited appointments
available first come first served.

Essential Session includes
Yearbook requirement **PLUS**
2 more outfits of your choice:
Casual, Formal, Sports,
Indoor or Outdoor
all in one stop!

Need more outfits?
No problem, upgrade to the
Most Popular Session for \$10 more
or
Ultimate Session for \$20 more

Schedule ASAP to get the
BEST DEAL!

Prestige Portraits
536 Centre View Blvd
Crestview Hills, KY 41017
Building #20

SCHEDULE NOW!
prestigeporraits.com/studio
(859) 578-0110 #2 #1



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Requirements

Drape

Drapes provided by studio. Pearls available if needed.

Deadline

photographed by
October 9, 2025

Schedule NOW! -limited appointments available

Click
Book Appointment
Search
Kentucky





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!***

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.



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

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



AQUAPANDAS MAKE WAVES ON THE NATIONAL STAGE SWIM & DIVE TEAM EARNS MULTIPLE ALL-AMERICAN AND ACADEMIC HONORS

The National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (NISCA) has recognized Notre Dame Academy's Swim & Dive Team with several prestigious national honors, highlighting both athletic excellence and academic achievement.

All-American Honors:

Sadie Hartig '25 was named a 2024–25 All-American in the 500-yard freestyle, ranking 63rd nationally.

Clare Herfel '28 earned double All-American honors in both the 200-yard freestyle (85th) and the 500-yard freestyle (31st).

Savannah Bien '27 was recognized as an All-American in One Meter Diving, landing among the top 100 divers in the country.

Academic All-Americans:

NISCA also honored seven graduating seniors as Academic All-Americans for maintaining a GPA of 3.75 or higher while competing as varsity athletes:

Andrea Carothers

Ava Deegan

Sadie Hartig

Katherine Heuker

Reese McGonigal

Grace Panko

Grace Summe

Gold Level Scholar Team – 12th in the Nation:

Most impressively, our Swim & Dive Team has been named a Gold Level Scholar Team, ranking 12th in the country with a team GPA of 3.929—a remarkable accomplishment that reflects the discipline, teamwork, and leadership of our student-athletes.

We are incredibly proud of these Pandas for representing Notre Dame Academy with excellence, both in and out of the water. Congratulations to all!

Important dates

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	College Application Workshop (3:15-4:30 p.m.) Meet and Greet with President and Principal 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 p.m.)
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