



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

August 18, 2021

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Parents and Students,

There is nothing quite like the first day of school - especially at Notre Dame Academy. Yesterday we welcomed our Pandas back to campus with the traditional NDA first day fanfare. It was wonderful to see the smiles of our students as the sisterhood of NDA came alive once again on our campus. I hope you had a chance to snap a few "first day" photos. You can see mine here on the right and several more of our "first day" pics at NDA below.



I am happy to report that we were able to gather our entire school community in our gym, all with masks and each person 3-feet apart, for our first all-school assembly. We welcomed our new faculty and staff, freshmen and transfer students at the gathering. We also talked about our school mission and our 2021-22 theme of *"Living the Gospel with a Spirit of Compassion, Hope and Joy"* as well as our school goals for the academic year. Our student leaders were inducted and our community enjoyed a fun video produced by our Student Council. It was a wonderful start of the school year and felt very much like a normal day at NDA.

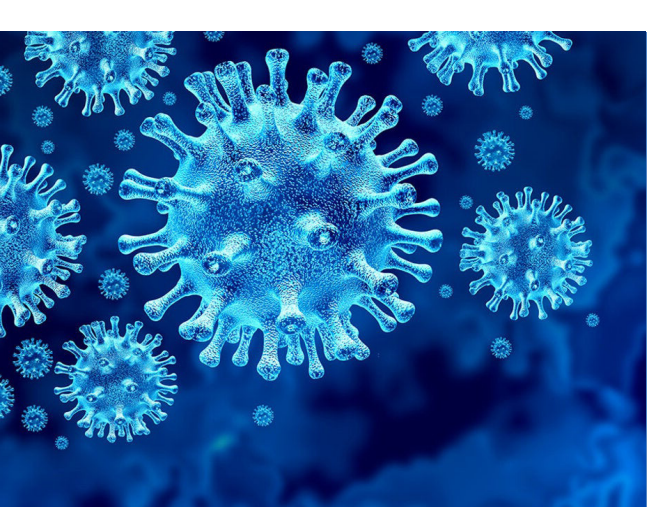
I would like to thank our students, faculty and staff for their help in keeping our community safe. As much as we would all prefer to be mask-free, everyone has been very cooperative about wearing a mask inside our school building. I truly appreciate everyone's efforts to keep our students safe and healthy and engaged in in-person learning.

Thank you for choosing Notre Dame Academy! We truly appreciate the opportunity to educate the young women of NDA in the educational tradition of our sponsors, the Sisters of Notre Dame.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf

Have a great day and make good choices!



WEEKLY UPDATE

COVID-19

As of today, Wednesday, August 18, we have had no reported cases of a member of our community testing positive for COVID-19 within the last week. We also currently do not have any students who are required to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19.

As we move forward, please keep NDA updated on any COVID-19 related issues involving your family. In the event that someone in your household is being tested for COVID-19 or your daughter is exposed to or tests positive for COVID-19, please contact our school nurse, Tina Sizemore, RN., at 859.292.1843 or sizemoret@ndapandas.org.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

2021-22 QUARANTINE PROCEDURES

The Quarantine Procedures below were provided by the Diocese of Covington. Parents must report COVID-19 cases to school. Each COVID-19 report will be reviewed and contact tracing will be conducted for the positive case. The guidance below will be used when determining the appropriate actions for each report. This guidance comes from the Kentucky Department of Public Health for schools.

Quarantine Procedures:

When a positive case is identified and reported to the school, contact tracing will be conducted to identify any close contacts to the positive case. A close contact is defined as follows:

- A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of the positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes while the person was considered contagious. The contagious period is 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms.
 - Exception: In the classroom setting, students who were at least 3 feet away from the positive case and masked may be excluded as a close contact based on the circumstances and prevention measures in place at the time. This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as long as specific details can be obtained and reviewed.
- If a student is deemed a close contact to the positive case, the parents will be notified and provided the close contact letter from the health department. The family may choose from the following quarantine options for their child:
 - Quarantine for 10 days if you have no symptoms.
 - Quarantine for 7 days if you have a negative COVID-19 test on or after day 5 and have no symptoms.
- If the close contact lives in the same household as the positive case, the following guidance from the NKY Health Department should be followed:
 - The quarantine for a household contact will begin after their last exposure to the positive case. If the contact can separate from the case within the home then they are considered no longer exposed. The quarantine options above may be used.
- If an individual meets the following criteria, she will **not have to quarantine** when considered to be a close contact to a positive case:
 - The person has been **fully vaccinated** and shows no symptoms of COVID-19
 - The person has **previously tested positive for COVID-19 and recovered (within the past three months) and shows no symptoms**
 - If someone is exempt from quarantine and begins to show symptoms within 14 days of the close contact exposure then he/she must isolate immediately, notify the school, and contact their doctor for treatment/testing.

FROM THE DESK OF
DR. LAURA KOEHL

Dear Students, Parents, Alumnae and Friends of NDA,

As I prepare to begin my new role as Executive Director of the SND National Sponsorship and Network Office (NSNO) on September 1st, I wanted to send a note of gratitude to all of you. While my days at NDA are nearly over, this incredible experience has left an indelible mark on my heart. As I wrap up some key projects and pack boxes, I've had the opportunity to reflect on the last 15 years. I always knew I was blessed to be a student and graduate of Notre Dame Academy, but to have had the opportunity to also serve as a teacher, principal and president has certainly been the highlight of my professional life. Because of my experiences at NDA and the many rewarding opportunities I have shared with so many of you, my life has been made much richer and I feel well prepared for this next part of the journey.

NDA is also well prepared for the next phase of our school's journey as we transition to new leadership. I am truly grateful to Mr. Jack VonHandorf for taking on the role of interim president while he also serves as principal. I know he is supported by our very dedicated and generous Board of Directors who have always served our school well in their strategic governance. In my work with Mr. VonHandorf, I know how much he values teamwork and this will continue as he leads our talented faculty and staff in collaboration, with our outstanding associate principal, Amber Grayson. Together they will continue to ensure the tradition of excellence that is NDA!

Our SND tradition remains at the core of this experience of excellence. As our founders, the Sisters of Notre Dame created a school that is always ready to make the most of the present even as we prepare for the challenges of the future. The SND USA leadership model is a perfect example of that as the SND sponsorship promotes and supports our success as a Catholic school dedicated to educating young women to make a difference in our world. NDA is not only blessed to be sponsored by the SNDs, we also enjoy membership in a network of SND ministries dedicated to serving others in response to the needs of God's people. In my role with the NSNO, I look forward to working with these ministries to promote effective governance and mission integration – at the heart of SND sponsorship and key to sustainable futures.

Our Board is hard at work on the search process for our new president. As you know, they have engaged a search firm and established a President Search Committee to assist them in finding a permanent president of NDA who will assume the position of president sometime prior to July 2022.

There are an overwhelming number of wonderful memories from these last 15 years and one of my favorites will always be our young women singing our school song – NDA We Honor Thee. The generations of women who have shared this song at school events and alumnae gatherings speaks to our rich legacy as a school sponsored by the SNDs. It has always been a joy to see these young women smile joyfully and sing proudly – forever NDA. That will always stay with me and as an NDA alumna I am ever grateful to always be a part of this beautiful and life-giving community.

God's goodness is with us each and every day at Notre Dame Academy and may that also be true for you.

With love and gratitude,

Laura Koehl, Ed.D. Class of 1975
President

Student Life



ATTENTION STUDENTS

GRADE LEVEL MEETINGS

Tomorrow afternoon juniors and seniors will have their quarterly meeting with administration. Topics to be covered include:

- Attendance Policy
- Exam Exemption Policy
- COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies
- Quarantine Procedures
- Study Hall Expectations
- Grade Level Events

Sophomores and freshmen will have their admin meeting next week.

SHIMMEREE SHIMMERAH

SENIOR CAR PAINTING

It was great to have our seniors on campus before school began for NDA's annual senior car painting event!



DON'T FORGET

FINALFORMS UPDATES

Don't forget to revisit FinalForms to view updates to:

- Student/Parent Handbook
- Acknowledgement of Responsibility Form (COVID-19)

All updates are due by the end of this week.

[FinalForms Account Set Up and Updates](#)



FIRST DAY PICS

WELCOME BACK PANDAS!

Summer is over and our Pandas have returned to their natural habitat! Special thanks to NDA alumna and professional photographer Katie Stratman '16 for capturing our first day of school!



WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!



WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!



PLEASE NOTE!

VIRTUAL

PARENT MINI-NIGHT

This year's Parent Mini-Night will be conducted virtually using Flipgrid as we did last year. This is a precautionary measure but also follows a year when we successfully hosted a virtual mini-night using Flipgrid. We will follow up with more information in the coming weeks.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

THEATRE AT NDA

NDA's Theatre Director, Miss Smith, invites YOU to learn more about theatre this Thursday after school. Open to all students interested in theatre at NDA and CCH.

What: Theatre informational meeting AND Clue (the movie) Watch Party!

- Learn about upcoming theatre auditions/technical interviews for Clue (the play), which are NEXT WEEK
- Meet NDA's new Technical Director
- Meet other theatre students
- Ask any questions about NDA/CCH Theatre for this year

When: Thursday, August 19 from 3:30-5:45 p.m.

Where: NDA's Theatre

Please email [Miss Smith](#) with any questions.



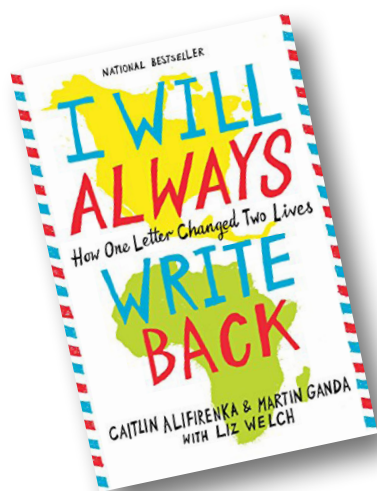
2021-22

COMMON READER

Hopefully by now all of our students have read this year's Common Reader, *I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda.

This is the true story of an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever. It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. Martin was lucky to even receive a penpal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. He was the top student, so he got the first one. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.

We look forward to celebrating this book and its many themes in the fall on our Common Reader Day on September 8.



IMPORTANT

ORDER LUNCH FOR NEXT WEEK

Click [HERE](#) for the lunch order form for next week. This form serves as a head count for our cafeteria staff. Please indicate which days you would like to purchase lunch next week. Payment will be due upon pick up in the cafeteria and using your ID card barcode and will be charged to your NDA lunch account through PayPams.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



ATTENTION PANDA FANS!

CATCH YOUR PANDAS ON LIVE STREAM

All NDA home events in the gym and on the turf will be streamed for all levels. You can buy a year pass, which may end up being a better deal, depending on how many games you want to stream, sports over the course of the year, etc. If an away team is also using the NFHS network then the subscription will cover those games as well. It will also cover KHSAA state championship games!

<https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/notre-dame-academy-park-hills-ky>

Reminder: All tickets to NDA athletic events are now electronic. Check out info on the website here: <https://www.ndapandas.org/athletics/fan-zone>

GOOD NEWS!

BOWLING

Bowling is back at NDA! Come find out more or just come to bowl with friends at one of the NDA open bowls. These are free for NDA students so come on out and see what it's all about. (Bowling season starts in October and runs through the winter with a couple practices each week.)

SUPPORT YOUR PANDA ATHLETES

ELECTRONIC TICKETING

This year NDA will continue with electronic ticketing through GoFan. You will no longer need to wait for a link to be sent to you but can just check the NDA page on GoFan for all ticket links.

We will also be adding an electronic fall sports pass that can be purchased through GoFan and will be good for one adult and immediate children for all fall NDA home games, excluding postseason. (We are not allowed to accept passes for postseason play).

These passes will be accessible on your phone in the GoFan app. The pass will need to be shown and redeemed at the gate of each home game. The passes are not transferable. Each adult would need to purchase their own pass. The cost of the pass is \$40. Immediate children in the family of the pass holder will not have to purchase an additional ticket.

If you are interested in purchasing a pass for fall you can do so here: <https://gofan.co/app/events/342050>

For ticket links to all home games go here: <https://gofan.co/app/school/KY6490>

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE EASY

DRUG FREE CLUBS OF AMERICA

FINALLY! A true PREVENTION PLAN for teens to rely on to remain drug free and GET REWARDED for it!

- Students become DFCA members after passing a simple, confidential drug test.
- Only Parents/Guardians receive test results - NEVER the school.
- Membership at NDA has steadily increased over the years; last year 83% of Pandas joined.
- Members can rely on testing as an "out" for drug related situations by saying, "I can't, I might get tested."
- Parents are notified via email about perfect moments and ways to talk to your children about drugs.
- Members receive a full color photo ID card to show to local merchants to receive community rewards for their drug free lifestyle.
- Retesting of random members continues throughout the school year.
- As long as members remain drug free, the rewards continue and...

...Saying "I can't" stops peer pressure in its tracks!

If you never start using drugs, you never have to stop!

Cost is only \$25/year...

(because Notre Dame Academy pays the cost of \$10 for every student member!) **but,**

Freshman can pay \$75 for 3 years, and have their Senior year FREE!

Applications for Notre Dame Academy's Drug Free Club are available online [HERE](#) or through paper applications available at school. Contact Mrs. Hildreth with any questions.



RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

NDA PARENT TOOLBOX

NDA's counselors have put together some very useful tools for our parents [HERE](#).



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

NDA COLLEGE VISIT SCHEDULE

These are College Visits specifically for NDA students/families. The visits are in the hallway outside the cafeteria. All students are welcome to visit the reps.

September

Tuesday, September 7 - Hanover College
Kelsey Johnson, Admissions Rep
johnsonke@hanover.edu

Monday, September 13, University of Alabama Huntsville
Allie Eason,
ame0017@uah.edu

Wednesday, September 15, University of Tampa
Faith Sanders
fsanders@ut.edu

Tuesday, September 21, University of Louisville
Whitney Burress
whitney.burress@louisville.edu

Monday, September 27, Ohio Northern University
Wada Rhoades
a-rhoades@onu.edu



2021

AUTUMN GALA

Save the date! This year's Autumn Gala is scheduled for October 16, 2021. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Planning Committee for the 2021 Autumn Gala, please contact Nancy Goeke at goeken@ndapandas.org or 859.292.1851.

Please consider becoming a Notre Dame Academy Gala Event Sponsor. Cash donations to the Autumn Gala make a tremendous impact on the overall success of our vital fundraising event. Please see the [following link](#) for sponsorship levels.



Julie Tapke-Dusing
Trey Tapke
Michael Dempsey
Mickey Fritz

Robert W. Baird & Co. Member SIPC.



Founded in 1919, [Baird](#) is an international financial services firm with \$211 billion in client assets. Today we provide private wealth management, institutional asset management, private equity, investment banking and capital markets services to clients through our offices in the United States, Europe and Asia. As employee-owners, we manage for the long term, continuously building capabilities to best serve clients. And we conservatively manage our balance sheet and capital position to maintain financial flexibility in all types of market conditions. Local Financial Advisors, Trey Tapke and Julie Tapke Dusing ('94), are enthusiastic NDA supporters



SHARING OUR Community News

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

- St. Joseph Heights Work Study Positions available for Students
- Seeking Lower Tuition Payments?

Important dates

August 24-26	Fall Play Auditions
August 27	Opening School Mass
	Student Council Mixer
September 3	Picture Day
September 6	No School - Labor Day
September 8	Common Reader Day
September 10	Club Orientation