



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

August 5, 2026

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Panda Families,

It is hard to believe that in just two short weeks our halls will once again be filled with the energy, laughter, and excitement of our students. We can't wait to welcome our Pandas back on Tuesday, August 18, and begin another incredible year at Notre Dame Academy.

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, I am especially excited to introduce this year's theme:

Sisters in Mission: Becoming Women of Faith Who Learn, Lead & Serve With Purpose.

Inspired by the Fourth Educational Principle of the Sisters of Notre Dame, An Integrated Education for Transformation, this theme reminds us that a Notre Dame education is about so much more than academic success. Every day, we strive to form young women who deepen their relationship with God, think critically, lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and discover the unique purpose God has for their lives. As we celebrate 120 Years of Faith, Education, and Transformation, I look forward to seeing this theme come alive in our classrooms, on our athletic fields and stages, through service opportunities, and in the everyday moments that define our school community.

I also hope many of you will join us for **Back-to-School Parent Information Night on Thursday, August 13, at 6:30 p.m.** This evening is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our administration, learn about our goals for the year, hear more about this year's theme, and receive important information to help your daughter begin the school year with confidence. Whether you are a first-time Panda parent or a returning family, we look forward to welcoming you!

As you read through this week's Panda Press Weekly, you'll also notice information about **Light the Night for NDA** and our upcoming **Gift Gathering Parties**. I encourage every family to become involved in whatever way they are able. **Light the Night for NDA is more than a fundraiser. It is a celebration of our mission and one of the most important ways our community comes together to invest in the young women of Notre Dame Academy.** The generosity of our parents, alumnae, grandparents, faculty, staff, and friends helps provide opportunities that directly benefit our students and strengthen our mission. Whether you attend the event, donate an auction item, or simply join us at one of our Gift Gathering Parties, your participation truly makes a difference.

This week's Panda Press Weekly is filled with important back-to-school information. I encourage you to take a few minutes to read through each section carefully so your family is ready for a wonderful start to the school year.

Thank you for the trust you place in us each school year. It is truly a privilege to partner with you as we educate and form women of faith who learn, lead, and serve with purpose.

We are looking forward to an amazing year together!

Walk in Faith,

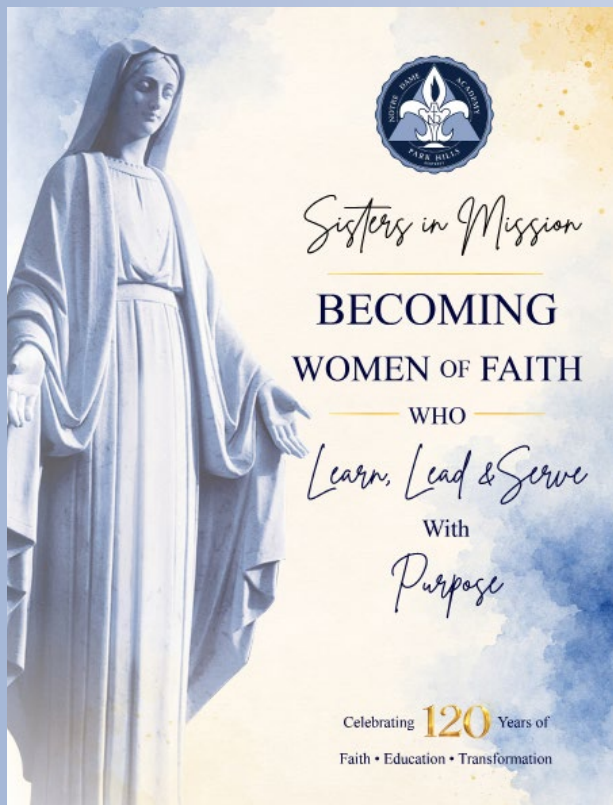
Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



Walk in Faith!

Student Life



INTRODUCING OUR 2026-27 THEME

BECOMING WOMEN OF FAITH

Each year, Notre Dame Academy's theme serves as a reminder of who we are, what we value, and who we are called to become. This year's theme, *Sisters in Mission: Becoming Women of Faith Who Learn, Lead & Serve With Purpose*, is inspired by the Fourth Educational Principle of the Sisters of Notre Dame: An Integrated Education for Transformation.

At Notre Dame Academy, education is about far more than academic achievement. It is about forming young women who deepen their relationship with God, think critically, lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and use their gifts to make a meaningful difference in the world.

As we reflected on our mission, vision, and the thoughtful insights shared by our students, one message became clear: Notre Dame Academy is not simply about what our students do. It is about who they become.

As we celebrate 120 Years of Faith, Education, and Transformation, this theme honors the generations of women who came before us while inspiring today's Pandas to embrace their unique purpose and become the women God created them to be.

We look forward to living this theme together throughout the 2026-27 school year!



WE CAN'T WAIT TO SING WITH YOU!

JOIN CHOIR!

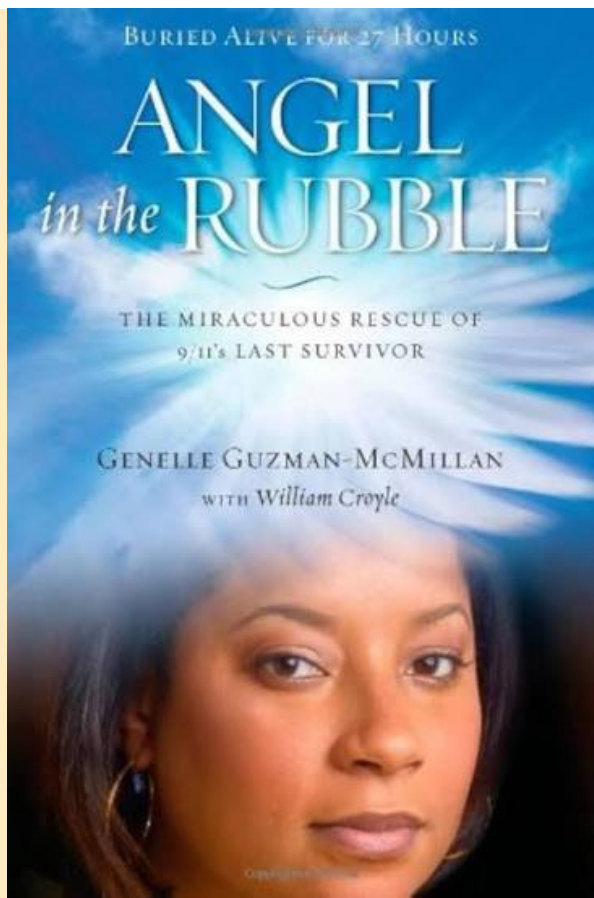
Are you interested in joining NDA's choir, the Panda Tones?

Whether you're an experienced singer or just love to sing, we'd love to have you join! No audition is required, and choir is open to students in all grade levels. Choir meets once a week after school and earns ½ credit each year. Members perform at school concerts, athletic events, formal school functions, Masses, and the theatre showcase.

Interested in learning more? Join us for a brief informational meeting for new, returning, and prospective members on Tuesday, August 25, at 3:15 p.m. in the Choral Room.

Questions? Email Mrs. Chandler at chandlerk@ndapandas.org.

Come join the Panda Tones—we can't wait to sing with you!



LAUNCHING A YEAR OF LEARNING

COMMON READER INSPIRES FAITH, COURAGE, AND PURPOSE

This year we are excited to focus on the common reader co written by a local author Willim Croyle. *Angel in the Rubble* tells the story of the miraculous rescue of 9/11's last survivor. As we remember this horrible tragedy that changed our nation as the 25 anniversary approaches, we hope our girls see the importance of leading, serving and remaining faithful to the Lord despite horrendous circumstances. Mr. Croyle will be visiting our students at some point in the early part of the year at our Common Reader Day to talk about his experience in co writing this text and how it relates to our theme - *Becoming Women of Faith Who Learn, Lead and Serve with Purpose*.



UNITED IN PRAYER AND RECOMMITTED

COMMISSIONED TO TEACH, LEAD, AND WITNESS

Notre Dame Academy was beautifully represented today at the Diocese of Covington's Annual Diocesan Mass for Catholic School Educators.

Our faculty joined Catholic educators from across the Diocese as Bishop Iffert commissioned us for the new school year, calling us to share the Word of God through our teaching, our example, and our daily witness to Christ.

As we begin the 2026-27 school year, we are grateful for this special opportunity to pray together, renew our commitment to Catholic education, and embrace our mission of forming young women of faith, scholarship, and service.

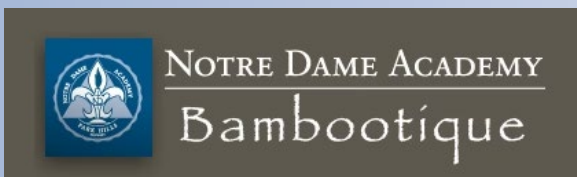
Please keep our faculty and staff in your prayers as we prepare to welcome our students back next week in a couple of weeks.

SHOW YOUR NDA SPIRIT

SHOP THE BAMBOOTIQUE

The first day of school is almost here, and there's no better time to make sure you're ready for the year ahead! The Bambootique is fully stocked with school uniform essentials, spirit wear, accessories, and more to help your Panda start the year looking her best.

Whether you need a few replacement pieces or are shopping for the first time, stop by the Bambootique in person or online [HERE](#).





AUGUST 10, 2026

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS RESUME

As we prepare to welcome our students back for another incredible school year, Notre Dame Academy's Main Office will return to regular business hours beginning Monday, August 10.

Regular Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Whether you're stopping by to pick up forms, ask a question, or simply say hello, we're looking forward to seeing you. Here's to a wonderful start to the 2026-27 school year!

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

UNIFORMS FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Please note: There is only one change to the NDA uniform this school year: Freshmen may wear any appropriate-length shorts for gym class. Uniform gym shorts are no longer required.

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.



ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Join us on Thursday, August 13, from 6:30–7:30 p.m. in the NDA Theater for our annual Back-to-School Parent Information Night.

This informative evening will provide an overview of what to expect during the upcoming school year and help families begin the year informed and connected. Our Principal and Leadership Team will share our school goals, mission, and this year's theme, while also reviewing important information about student life, including behavior expectations and our Personal Mobile Device Policy (cell phone policy).

Parents will also have the opportunity to:

- Meet our Campus Minister
- Learn about our nationally recognized Drug Free Club from the Counseling Department
- Receive the Unofficial Panda Parent Guide
- Ask questions and connect with school leadership

Whether you are new to NDA or a returning Panda family, this is a great opportunity to learn about all that is in store for the 2026–2027 school year. We look forward to seeing you there!

IMPORTANT DATES

2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR

As we look ahead to the 2026–27 school year, we are sharing key dates to help families plan for holidays, breaks and important milestones throughout the year. Please note these dates on your calendar as you begin making plans for the year ahead.

2026–2027 - 2026–2027 Summer & Back-to-School Dates

August 3-7	iPad Orientation
August 10-13	Incoming Freshman Bridge Program
August 13	Back-to-School Parent Information Night
August 14	Incoming Freshman/New Student Orientation/FunFest

Schedule for the 2026–2027 School Year

August 18	First Day of School
September 7	No school: Labor Day
October 8-9	No school: Professional Development Days
November 25-27	No school: Thanksgiving Break
December 8	No school: Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 16-18	Exams (early dismissal on exam days)
December 21—January 3	No school: Christmas Break
January 4	School Resumes after Christmas Break
January 18	No school: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 15	No school: Presidents Day
March 12	No school: Professional Development Day
March 25 - April 2	No school: Easter Break
April 5	School Resumes after Spring Break
May 28	Last day of school
May 28	Graduation





CLASS OF 2030 MAKES A DIFFERENCE FRESHMAN SERVICE PROJECT

Our Class of 2030 recently partnered with St. Elizabeth Healthcare's Community Outreach Program to help BrightView provide Mercy Mats for clients experiencing homelessness. Using recycled plastic bags, our incoming freshmen worked together to create sleeping mats that offer comfort, insulation, and hope to those facing difficult circumstances. It was a meaningful way for our newest students to begin their Notre Dame Academy journey by living our mission of service. A special thank you to St. Elizabeth Healthcare, BrightView, and our alumna Nina Hafertepen '17 for helping make this partnership possible. Thanks for making a difference, Pandas!



NEON NIGHT! FIRST NDA MIXER

The first NDA Mixer of the school year is almost here! Join us on Saturday, August 22, from 7:30-10:30 p.m. for a night of music, dancing, games, and glowing fun at our Neon-Themed Mixer!

Wear your brightest neon colors and get ready to kick off the school year with friends and plenty of Panda spirit. This exciting event is sponsored by the Student Council and is a great way to meet new classmates, reconnect with friends, and make memories to start the year.

Don't miss one of the most anticipated events of the fall—we can't wait to see you glowing on the dance floor! Ticket information to follow.

INSPIRING LEADERS

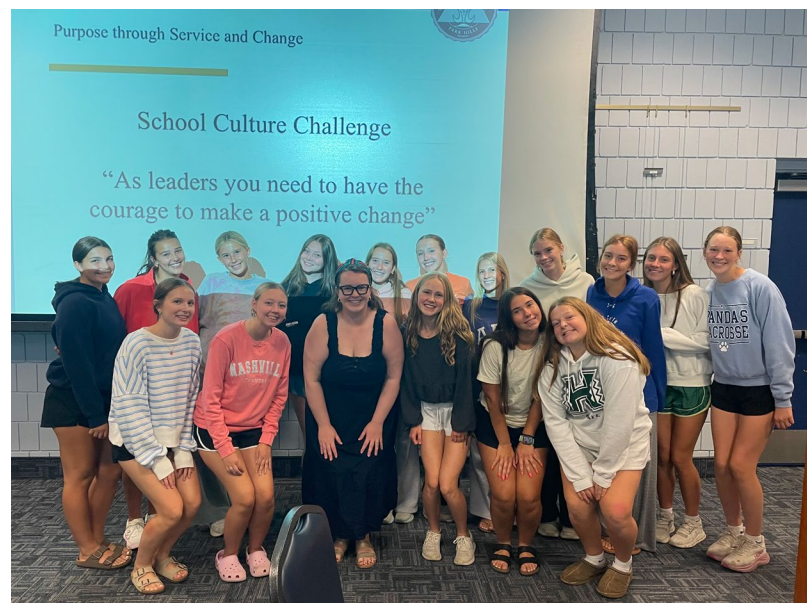
2026-27 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Notre Dame Academy's student leaders came together this summer participating in an inspiring Leadership Summit designed to prepare them to lead with purpose, confidence, and compassion throughout the year.

During the summit, students explored their individual leadership styles, strengthened their collaboration and communication skills, practiced public speaking and engagement strategies, and worked together to develop meaningful service-learning projects that will positively impact both our school and the greater community.

The experience concluded with a networking lunch at Grandview Tavern, where students had the opportunity to connect with one another while learning valuable professional dining etiquette and networking skills—important tools for future college, career, and leadership success.

We are excited to see these exceptional young women put their talents into action as they continue Notre Dame Academy's mission of Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World.





IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FINAL FORMS ACCOUNTS

FINALFORMS UPDATES REQUIRED FOR 2026-2027

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. If participating in athletics, parents and students were expected to use FinalForms and complete their updates for this school year or by the first day of school, if not participating in athletics. FinalForms is active now and if support is needed, please contact the school office.

Students who want to participate in athletics must upload a valid, signed KHSAA 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 26-27 school year. If you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Stacey Turner at turners@ndapandas.org.

PARKING PASS INFORMATION

ATTENTION STUDENT DRIVERS

Parking pass information, including details on how to purchase your parking spot, will be released at the beginning of next week.

Please watch your email and school communications for instructions, important dates, and everything you need to secure your parking pass for the school year. We appreciate your patience and look forward to welcoming our student drivers back to campus!



ROBOTICS IS COMING TO NDA!

NEW ROBOTICS CLUB TO LAUNCH INNOVATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Notre Dame Academy is excited to announce the launch of a new Robotics Club for the 2026-27 school year!

Students participating in the club will have the opportunity to design, build, program and compete while exploring the exciting world of robotics and engineering. The club will focus on teamwork, creativity, problem-solving and innovation as students work together on hands-on projects and challenges.

In addition to gaining valuable STEM experience, students can also earn a one-half credit through participation in the club.

The new program reflects NDA's continued commitment to innovation and preparing young women to lead in an ever-changing technological world. Students interested in robotics are encouraged to complete the interest Google Form found [HERE](#).



A vibrant poster for the NDA Robotics Club. The background is dark blue with white and yellow circuit-like patterns. At the top, the word "ROBOTICS" is in large, white, block letters. Below it, "IS COMING TO" is written in yellow on a black brushstroke, followed by "NDA!" in large, bold, yellow letters. On the left, a cartoon panda mascot wearing a blue NDA jersey waves its right paw. In the center, three icons (lightbulb, gear, star) are next to the words "INNOVATE.", "BUILD.", and "INSPIRE." respectively. Below these, a paragraph of text reads: "Get ready to design, build, program, and compete as we launch an exciting new chapter of innovation at NDA!". On the right, a detailed blue and silver LEGO Mindstorms robot is shown. At the bottom left, two white banners with icons and text read: "EARN A 1/2 CREDIT THROUGH THIS CLUB!" (with a graduation cap icon) and "BIG THINGS ARE BUILDING!" (with a calendar icon). Below these are four columns of icons and text: "TEAMWORK MAKES US STRONGER" (people icon), "TECHNOLOGY SHAPES OUR FUTURE" (code icon), "CHALLENGE DRIVES GROWTH" (trophy icon), and "CREATE SOMETHING AMAZING" (robot head icon). The bottom of the poster features a yellow banner with the text "BE PART OF THE FUTURE. BE PART OF ROBOTICS." and a large gear icon with a lightning bolt inside.

ROBOTICS

IS COMING TO

NDA!

 INNOVATE.
 BUILD.
 INSPIRE.

Get ready to design, build, program, and compete as we launch an exciting new chapter of innovation at NDA!

 EARN A **1/2 CREDIT** THROUGH THIS CLUB!

 **BIG THINGS ARE BUILDING!**

 TEAMWORK MAKES US STRONGER

 TECHNOLOGY SHAPES OUR FUTURE

 CHALLENGE DRIVES GROWTH

 CREATE SOMETHING AMAZING

BE PART OF THE FUTURE.
BE PART OF ROBOTICS.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

PANDA ATHLETICS

Fall Sports Updates

Tickets & Season Passes

All Notre Dame Academy home game tickets and season passes can be purchased through HomeTown Ticketing:

Home Game Tickets & Season Passes

<https://events.hometownticketing.com/boxoffice/ndapandas/entity/schools/1>

This year, ArbiterLive is your one-stop location to view schedules and purchase tickets for both home and away contests.

Search any host school to purchase away game tickets: <https://arbiterlive.com/>

Bookmark Notre Dame Academy's athletic calendar: <https://arbiterlive.com/School/Calendar/16687>

Soccer

2026 Soccer Schedule:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V79LvdQv8sQDUPI6oFhrYmBKK7Dwyt0-/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100989262257752070926&rtpof=true&sd=true>

The soccer team opened the preseason with a scrimmage against St. Henry and is now preparing for its regular-season opener on August 10 vs. Sacred Heart (away).



Future Panda Day – August 22

Join the Pandas as they welcome future Pandas to campus for an exciting evening of soccer! Future student-athletes and their families are invited to cheer on Notre Dame as the Pandas take on Carmel High School (IN). We look forward to seeing you there!

Junior Varsity Soccer Team Manager Opportunity

Notre Dame Academy is looking for a sophomore student who is interested in serving as the Junior Varsity Soccer Team Manager this season.

Responsibilities include:

- Attending team practices and games
- Assisting the coaches and players with team needs
- Helping ensure practices and game days run smoothly
- This is a great opportunity to be part of the team, build leadership skills, and support Panda Athletics!

If you are interested, please email Cory Dan at danc@gmail.com or Megan Gadomski at millerm@ndapandas.org.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY	
2026 SCHEDULE	
MON 8/10 AWAY SACRED HEART 7:30 / 5:30	SAT 8/5 HOME CAMPBELL COUNTY 9:00A / 10:30A
SAT 8/6 AWAY SOUTH OLDHAM 11:30A / 10:00A	MON 8/7 AWAY ST. HENRY 8:00 / 6:30
MON 8/7 AWAY RYLE 8:00 / 6:30	WED 8/9 AWAY BISHOP BROSSART 7:30 / 6:00
WED 8/9 AWAY DIXIE HEIGHTS 7:30 / 6:00	SAT 8/12 HOME HIGHLANDS 9:00A / 11:30A
SAT 8/22 HOME CARMEL (IN) 10:00A / 11:30A	WED 8/16 HOME SIMON KENTON 7:30 / 5:30
MON 8/24 HOME BADIN (OH) 7:15 / 5:30	SAT 8/19 HOME WEST JESSAMINE 7:45 / 6:00
SAT 8/29 AWAY CENTRAL HARDIN 11:00A / 12:45P	MON 8/21 HOME HOLY CROSS 7:30 / 5:30
MON 8/31 AWAY BEECHWOOD 8:00 / 6:30	WED 9/23 HOME COOPER 7:30 / 5:30
WED 9/2 AWAY CONNER 8:00 / 6:30	10/12 11P TBD STATE PLAYOFFS

MAXPREPS #MAKEITCOUNT

Volleyball

2026 Volleyball Schedule:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/168t6iL3WNjcUfyioLhXWwXhuXP7x4Ajl/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100989262257752070926&rtpof=true&sd=true>

The volleyball team is hard at work with two-a-day practices as they prepare for their annual preseason scrimmage against Mount Notre Dame on August 12 at Notre Dame Academy.

Playing for a Purpose - Mark your calendars

Saturday, October 10

Boone County High School

Join us as we honor those battling cancer, celebrate survivors, and support families impacted by the disease during our annual Playing for a Purpose event.

Nominate an Honoree:

<https://forms.gle/1kGZzaw3vo3bK8R29>

Scholarship Nomination Form:

<https://forms.gle/Ek7WAWDn8GPcMpSEA>



Cross Country

2026 Cross Country Schedule:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1X2AlfhLANpd-HmR1Cqxx3vjMFu-XxjTl/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100989262257752070926&rtpof=true&sd=true>

The Cross Country team continues its summer training in preparation for hosting the Panda Classic/Diocesan Meet on August 22 at Williamstown High School. We wish our runners the best as they prepare for another exciting season.

Golf

2026 Golf Schedule:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kYtQcvq_Lli7u3Ytp6DlrzmfG5Hmip2fraX6aVqdDdQ/edit?usp=sharing

Congratulations to the Panda Golf Team on capturing the 2026 Pendleton County Ladycat Invitational Championship last Wednesday, earning the first team victory of the fall season!

Earlier in the week, the team hosted the 2nd Annual Karen Henderson Memorial Classic at Kenton County's Willows Course. The event continues to honor Karen Henderson, whose nearly two decades of dedication to Notre Dame Academy and the golf program left an immeasurable impact on countless student-athletes. Her legacy of leadership, sportsmanship, and love for the game continues to inspire every Panda golfer.

We are also excited to welcome Eva Jones to the coaching staff. Eva played collegiate golf at the University of the South and is passionate about sharing her knowledge and love of the game with the next generation of Panda golfers. Welcome to Notre Dame Athletics, Coach Jones!

Advancing the Mission

Light the Night *for* NDA



Join alumnae, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff and friends as we come together to support the young women of Notre Dame Academy on Saturday, November 14, 2026 at The Madison Event center.

Please also join us for...



Freshman Parent

Light the Night for NDA GIFT GATHERING PARTY

Thursday, August 13

7:30 p.m. at NDA

Immediately following
Parent Welcome Back Night.

Bring a gift card or other item for our silent or live auctions and help kick off this year's event!



All Parent

Light the Night for NDA GIFT GATHERING PARTY

Thursday, September 17

7:30 p.m. at NDA

Bring Tickets, Experiences, Libations or Cash. All donations help to make Light the Night for NDA a success!

Questions? Contact NDA's Advancement Office at (859) 292-7729.

Important dates

August 3-7	iPad Orientation
August 10-13	Incoming Freshman Bridge Program
August 13	Back-to-School Parent Information Night
August 14	Incoming Freshman/New Student Orientation and FunFest
August 18	First Day of School
August 20	Alumnae Rosary
September 4	Picture Day
September 7	No School - Labor Day
September 8	St. Joe's Crescent Springs Shadow Day
September 10	Blessed Sacrament Shadow Day
September 14	Junior Retreat
September 16	Scholarship Breakfast
September 17	Alumnae Rosary
September 22	St. Pius X Shadow Day
September 21	Junior Retreat
September 24	St. Agnes and Prince of Peace Shadow Day
October 1	Foundation Day
October 4	Golden Graduates Mass and Lunch
October 8-9	No School - PD Days
October 15	Alumnae Rosary
October 16	NDA/CCH Frosh Halloween Bash
October 21-23	Senior Retreat
November 2	Remembrance Mass
November 8	Open House
November 14	Light the Night for NDA
November 19	Alumnae Rosary
November 19	Alumnae Dinner Theatre



SHARING OUR Community News

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

- Preschool Aide Position Available
- Real Talk & Real Hope 2026