



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

August 13, 2025

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Panda Families,

We are just two days into the new school year, and already the halls of Notre Dame Academy are filled with the energy and excitement of a new school year. On the first day of school, our faith community came together to welcome everyone - students, faculty, staff, and administration alike. It was a wonderful celebration of being together again, filled with music, laughter, and school spirit. Along with the fun, we also took time to set a clear and purposeful tone for the year ahead, reviewing expectations and reinforcing our shared commitment to excellence. This included a special emphasis on our uniform guidelines and our new cell phone policy, both designed to help students stay focused and present in their learning.

This year, we are guided by our school theme: *"Sisters in Mission: Walk Humbly. Serve Boldly. Shine with Grace."* Rooted in the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame, this theme invites us to live our faith with humility, serve others with courage, and let the light of God's grace shine through our words and actions. As a community, we will encourage our students to embrace these values daily—whether in the classroom, on the field, on the stage, or in their personal relationships.

As we move forward, let us remember that small acts of kindness and bold steps of service can transform not only our school community but also the world around us. I invite each of us to be intentional in living out this mission together.

Please remember that this Friday, August 15, we will be closed in observance of the Feast of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation. I encourage all families to take the opportunity to attend Mass together and reflect on Mary's example of faithful discipleship.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and partnership as we begin this exciting year. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

Walk in Faith,

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



Walk in Faith!

WELCOME PANDAS!



THE ADVENTURE BEGINS NOW!

THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

Our campus has come alive with Panda spirit this week! Students, teachers, and staff kicked off the school year with energy, smiles, and a renewed commitment to excellence. Whether it was reuniting with friends, meeting new faces, or diving into fresh challenges, this first week set the tone for an amazing year ahead.

Here's to new beginnings, big dreams, and using our God-given gifts and talents to make a difference. Welcome back, Pandas — the adventure starts now! [TAKE A LOOK HERE!](#)



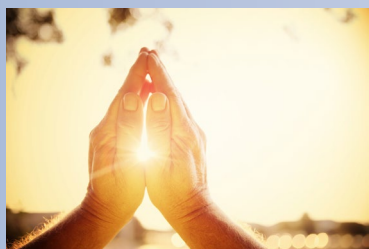
CAMPUS MINISTRY



FAITH FORMATION

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

We will celebrate our Opening School Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 14, in the gym. This is a beautiful way to begin the school year together as a community of faith. Fr. Kunath, who will once again serve as our chaplain this year, will be here to celebrate the Mass. All are welcome to join us in prayer as we dedicate this year to God's guidance and grace.



CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Beginning Tuesday, August 19, we will celebrate Mass at 7:20 a.m. most Tuesdays and Fridays in the chapel. Students, faculty, staff, and parents are encouraged to attend. Please check each week's PPW for any changes, as Mass may occasionally be canceled due to Fr. Kunath's schedule. This is a wonderful way to start the day centered in prayer and the Eucharist.



JOIN US!

MORNING ROSARY

On Mondays and Thursdays, we invite students, faculty, staff, and parents to pray a decade of the Rosary at 7:45 a.m. in the chapel. This brief but powerful prayer is a meaningful way to begin the day focused on faith and unity. Whether you come every week or only occasionally, all are welcome.

NDUEC

FIRST COLLECTION OF THE YEAR: AUGUST 20

On Wednesday, August 20, we will hold our first collection of the school year to support the Notre Dame Urban Education Center and its students. We will be collecting school supplies as [listed here](#) or \$3 (cash only). Students who contribute will be permitted to dress down that day. Your generosity will help ensure that local students start the year with the tools they need to succeed.



Student Life



NEON NIGHTS!

FRESHMAN MIXER SET FOR AUGUST 14

Hey, Class of 2029—your first NDA event is almost here, and it's going to be a night to remember!

Student Council is hosting Neon Nights, the Freshman Mixer, tomorrow, August 14 from 7 to 10 p.m. There'll be music, dancing, snacks and plenty of glow-in-the-dark fun. Wear your brightest neon and come ready to meet new friends and make memories.

Tickets are just \$5 at the door, and all proceeds benefit the Notre Dame Urban Education Center—so you'll be having fun while supporting a great cause.

And the best part? No school on Friday, August 15 thanks to the Feast of the Assumption.

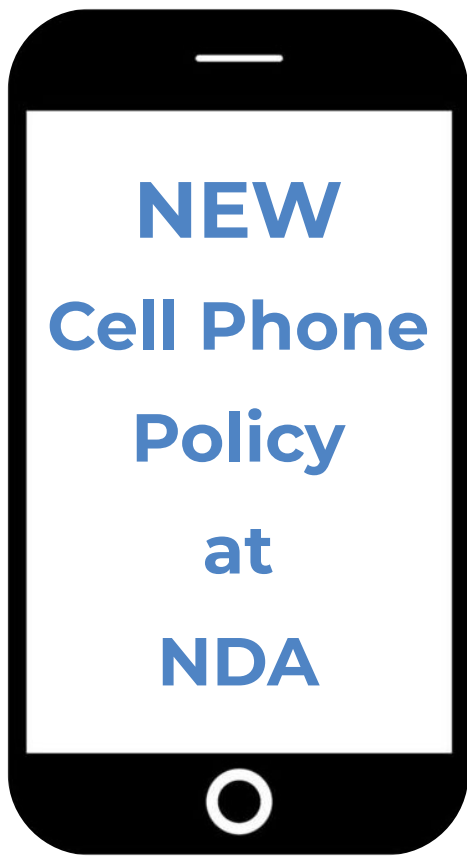
Let's glow Pandas!

FINAL FORMS UPDATE

ADDENDUM TO HANDBOOK

The Student and Parent Handbook was uploaded to Final Forms in June, despite the fact that our Cell Phone Policy needed to be revamped. Our deadline for uploading new documents in Final Forms is always early in the summer due to the importance of Final Forms with relation to athletic participation. After offering roundtable discussions for families and holding discussions with faculty, the PMD (personal mobile device) final policy was established (and is posted in this week's PPW). In addition to those updates, we made our problem solving procedures more apparent in the handbook along with our parent partnership expectations. All of this will be uploaded to Final Forms as well and will require one additional signature affirming that you have read and are aware of these updates.

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
PLEASE READ**



FOSTERING PRESENCE AND FOCUS NEW CELL PHONE POLICY

In alignment with state-level actions and parent feedback, Notre Dame Academy has implemented a new personal mobile device (PMD) policy for the 2025–26 school year.

Under the policy, all PMDs—including cell phones, smartwatches, AirPods, and personal devices—must be turned off and stored out of sight from 8 a.m. to 2:59 p.m. Any student found with a PMD out or on without permission from the Main Office or Counseling Office will have it confiscated by a school adult and turned over to administration.

Violations carry progressive consequences:

- **First offense:** The PMD must be turned into the office upon arrival every day for one week.
- **Second offense:** The PMD must be turned in daily for one month, and the student will receive a detention.
- **Third offense:** The PMD must be turned in daily for a semester, and the student will receive a Saturday School.
- **Fourth offense:** The PMD must be turned in daily indefinitely, and a disciplinary and mental health plan will be developed. This may include in-school or out-of-school suspension and a recommendation for professional support.

The decision follows roundtable discussions with parents in late July and reflects growing concern over the impact of mobile devices on student focus, social skills, and mental health. Research shared with families, including findings from Jonathan Haidt's *The Anxious Generation*, highlighted alarming trends: reduced face-to-face interaction, increased isolation, and a sharp rise in adolescent mental health issues correlated with social media use.

“Our mantra this year is ‘Phones Away During the Day,’” Principal Lisa Timmerding said. “We want our students to be fully present—intellectually, socially, and emotionally—so they can grow into the leaders they are meant to be.”

Exceptions will be made for students with documented medical or educational needs. Parents are encouraged to contact the school nurse or administration to arrange accommodations as necessary.



DELICIOUS NEWS! WEEKLY LUNCH MENU

A hot lunch and salad bar will be available for purchase each day at our NDA cafeteria. You can find a menu price sheet as well as this week's lunch menu [HERE](#).



OFF TO A GOOD START

PANDA PARENT CLUB

The Panda Parent Club (PPC), Notre Dame Academy's parent engagement initiative, kicked off the 2025–26 school year with its first meeting during Parent Night last week. Thank you to everyone who joined us to learn more about how parents can get involved at NDA!

The PPC is growing and offers something for everyone—whether you're looking to lend a hand, make new friends, or help shape beloved NDA traditions. This year's opportunities include:

- Volunteer Support: Cafeteria, Bambootique, and event assistance
- Grade-Level Sponsored Events
- Key Event Planning: Mother/Daughter, Father/Daughter, and After Prom socials
- Quarterly Speakers and Parent Programs

Watch for more details in upcoming editions of the Panda Press Weekly about how you can participate and make a difference in the NDA community.



SING WITH THE PANDA TONES

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Are you interested in joining choir at Notre Dame Academy? All students are invited to join the Panda Tones!

All returning and new members should attend the choir's brief informational meeting on Tuesday, August 19, in the choral room at 3:00 after announcements. We will discuss class expectations, songs, and important dates.

Please email Mrs. Chandler (chandlerk@ndapandas.org) if you have additional questions.

MISSED PARENT NIGHT?

PARENT NIGHT PRESENTATION

Notre Dame Academy's Parent Night on August 7 brought families together to connect with faculty, learn about school updates, and prepare for the year ahead. Thank you to all who attended and shared in the excitement of launching the 2025–26 school year.

For those who were unable to attend, the full presentation from the evening is now available. The slides include key information on academic programs, student expectations, uniform guidelines, the updated personal mobile device policy, and important dates to note.

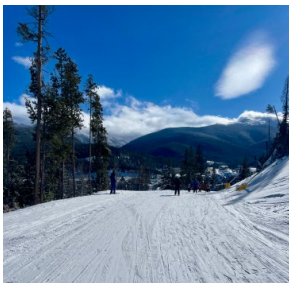
Families are encouraged to review the presentation to ensure they have the most up-to-date information. Staying informed helps us work together to support every NDA student in living out this year's theme: "Sisters in Mission: Walk Humbly. Serve Boldly. Shine with Grace."

[Click here to view the Parent Night Presentation](#)

PARENT

NIGHT

PRESENTATION



REGISTRATION NOW 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.



PLEASE NOTE

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!

Prestige
Photography
by Lifetouch

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.



CAN YOU HELP?

FRESHMAN FAMILIES IN NEED OF CARPOOL

There are two freshman families who would like to make some carpool arrangements. One family lives in Latonia near Holy Cross and the other family lives in Florence. If you live in these areas and could offer some help with transportation to or from NDA, please contact [Katie Caccavari](#), Director of Enrollment. She will connect you with the family so that you can discuss their exact needs and how you might help.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
Bambootique

NDA BAMBOOTIQUE

PANDA SPIRIT WEAR

Show your Panda pride! Get your Panda Fan gear online [HERE](#).

THEATRE SEASON KICKS OFF

LEARN ABOUT UPCOMING SHOWS

NDA's theatre program is off to a lively start after Wednesday's informational meeting with Mrs. Leonard, our building substitute and theatre director. Students gathered in the theatre to hear about this year's exciting productions: Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* in the fall, our annual student showcase in the winter, and Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* for the spring musical.

The meeting outlined opportunities for students to participate both on stage and behind the scenes, from acting and singing to set design, costuming, lighting, and crew work. Mrs. Leonard also shared details with our friends at CCH so that both schools can collaborate in the productions.

Students who were unable to attend but would like to receive updates can still email Mrs. Leonard [Mrs. Leonard](#) to be added to the theatre mailing list. With such a strong start, this season promises to be full of creativity, teamwork, and unforgettable performances.



INTEREST MEETING

MOCK TRIAL

Mrs. Chrissy Monohan is inviting students to learn more about NDA's Mock Trial team at an interest meeting on Monday, August 18, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 105. Mock Trial offers students the opportunity to develop critical thinking, public speaking, and legal skills while working as part of a competitive team.

Practices are scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and participation counts as a Pass/Fail class. Attendance requirements apply to remain a member of the team and to earn credit.

If you are interested in joining or simply want to find out more, plan to attend the meeting. Additional details about the Kentucky Mock Trial program can be found [here](#).

MOCK TRIAL




FALL BLOOD DRIVE

Notre Dame Academy's LIFE Club has exciting news to share—last school year's combined efforts from our Fall and Spring blood drives, along with donations made at any Hoxworth location on NDA's behalf, earned our school a \$500 grant from Hoxworth Blood Center. These funds have been added to the Support a Panda Fund, directly benefiting members of our community in need.

LIFE Club is also announcing its Fall Blood Drive, scheduled for Thursday, August 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. This drive is geared toward faculty, staff, and community members, though students are welcome to participate. The Spring blood drive will focus more on student participation.


We encourage all eligible donors to consider giving the gift of life. Every donation makes a difference for patients in our region.

[Click here to schedule your appointment](#)



SAVING LIVES
Close to Home Since 1938

Hoxworth
BLOOD CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI



Notre Dame Academy Blood Drive

Thursday, August 21, 2025
2:00 pm- 4:00 pm

All donors get a Hoxworth LS Hooded Tshirt!

Blood Drive will be on a Mobile Bus

To make an appointment go to:
hoxworth.org/groups/nda
please see Mrs. Lashua or Mrs. VanAuken
with any questions

SCAN TO SAVE A LIFE	FREE Donor Gift	Requirements to donate:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photo ID• Weigh at least 110 lbs.• Age 17+• Age 16 with parental consent• Comply with donor eligibility requirements
Learn more: hoxworth.org/donors/high-school		



Important Dates for 2025-26!

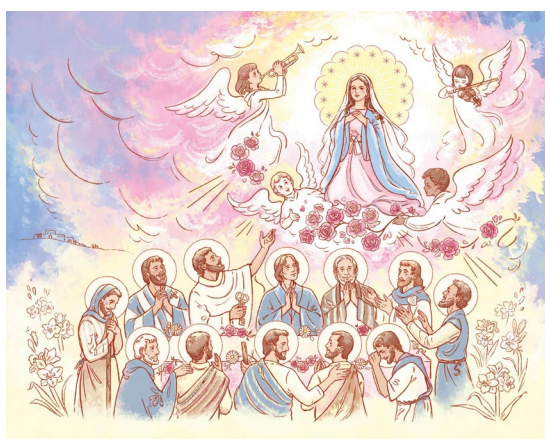
MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2025-26 CALENDAR

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



NO SCHOOL FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

This Friday, August 15, there will be no school in honor of the Feast of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation in the Catholic Church. The Feast commemorates the Blessed Virgin Mary being assumed body and soul into Heaven, a reminder of her faithfulness and God's promise of eternal life.

Families are encouraged to attend Mass together to mark this important feast day in our Church calendar. We look forward to gathering again as a community on Monday, August 18, ready to continue our school year in faith, learning, and service.



Save the Date
October 04, 2025
6:00-10:00 PM | The Madison Event Center

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 CALENDARS!

SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, & SENIOR PARENT GIFT GATHERING

Sophomore, junior, and senior parents are invited to the Gift Gathering Party on Thursday, August 28, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Performance Lexus (709 Wright's Summit Parkway, Fort Wright).

This fun and casual evening is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other NDA families while supporting our school community. Bring along a gift card, rare bourbon, entertainment or sports tickets, or make a cash/Venmo donation to help build amazing auction baskets and prizes for our upcoming events.

Your generosity makes a big difference, and we can't wait to enjoy a great night together with refreshments, laughter, and Panda spirit!



You're invited to the

Sophomore, Junior, & Senior Parent Gift Gathering Party

**08.28.25 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Performance Lexus
709 Wright's Summit Pkwy, Fort Wright, KY 41011**



Gift cards to local
restaurants to be
used in auction
baskets or gift
card pull



Rare
bourbon



Entertainment /
Sports Tickets



Contribute to
larger gift card
raffle with a cash /
Venmo donation

LIGHT THE NIGHT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BE A PART OF LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR NDA

Sponsorships are an impactful way to be part of Light the Night for NDA, especially if you cannot attend the event. As our largest fundraiser of the year, Light the Night for NDA plays a vital role in supporting our students, programs, and the mission of Notre Dame Academy.

As we enter the 120th school year here at NDA, a special opportunity is our **\$250 Fourth Floor Sponsorship**, named in honor of the Sisters of Notre Dame who live on the fourth floor of our school building. This sponsorship is a meaningful way to celebrate **120 years of innovative Catholic education for young women** at NDA while paying tribute to the Sisters whose vision and dedication have shaped our mission.



\$3,000 Level

Auction Sponsorship

- Logo on silent auction sheets
- 1/2 page ad in program
- Printed recognition in the program
- Multiple NDA parent newsletters
- Live recognition at the event
- NDA website recognition
- Auction site logo display

\$2,000 Level

Dinner Sponsorship

- Signage near buffet lines
- 1/2 page ad in program
- Printed recognition in the program
- Multiple NDA parent newsletters
- Live recognition at the event
- Auction site logo display

\$500 Level

Panda Sponsorship

- Printed program recognition
- Multiple NDA parent newsletters
- Auction site recognition

\$1000 Level

Cocktail Hour Sponsorship

- Signage at Bar
- 1/2 page ad in program
- Printed recognition in the program
- Multiple NDA parent newsletters
- Auction site logo display

\$250 Level

Fourth Floor Sponsorship

- Printed program recognition
- Auction site recognition

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR PANDA FANS!

2025-26 ATHLETIC EVENT TICKETS

NDA fans, it's time to gear up for another exciting year of Panda athletics!

Our 2025-2026 annual athletic passes and fall sports passes are now available for purchase. **Please note that all tickets must be purchased online in advance. There will be no cash or credit card sales at the gate for any home games.**

To ensure a smooth experience at the gate, we strongly encourage everyone to create an account and purchase tickets ahead of time using our HomeTown Ticketing box office link:

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

A QR code will also be available at the gate for convenience (and is shown below), but buying in advance is the best way to avoid delays.

If you have any questions, please contact NDA Athletic Director Janet Carl at carlj@ndapandas.org.

Let's go, Pandas!



STREAMING INFORMATION

WATCH THE PANDAS LIVE

Cheer on the Pandas from wherever you are! If you can't make it to the game in person, you can watch the action live through Hudl.

[Click here](#) to stream the game live and support our team from home, work, or on the go.

Go Pandas!

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



JOIN TODAY!

SIGN UP FOR DRUG FREE CLUB!



Drug Free Club partners with families to help their students say no to drugs or substances they might be pressured into trying. Being a part of the club allows a student to say "No, I might get tested" when in a situation where drugs are present. The drug testing is confidential and only parents learn the results if there is a concern. Here at NDA the overwhelming majority of students are in Drug Free Club and we take our job of rewarding students for being Drug Free seriously! We provide rewards such as gift cards, goody bags, hot chocolate mornings, popsicle afternoons and more!

As a freshman you can sign your daughter up for all 4 years and get the senior year free. NDA also subsidizes the cost by paying for \$10 of the \$35 cost per year, making it only \$25 per year for your NDA student. To sign up your daughter, please visit this link [here](https://ndapadnas.org). If you have any questions please reach out to Mrs. Maggard at maggarde@ndapadnas.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

UPCOMING COUNSELOR EVENTS

8-14 College Application Workshop 3:15 p.m.

8-20 College Application Workshop 7:30 a.m.

Brains, Bags and Balance:
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
Mental Wellness Tips

CHECK IT OUT!

BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS

Check out [these ideas](#) and strategies from 1N5 to help your student stay healthy this school year.

Important dates

August 14	College Application Workshop (3:15-4:30 p.m.)
	Opening School Mass
August 15	No School - Feast of the Assumption
August 20	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 13	Club Orientation
September 17	Donor Scholarship Breakfast
September 18	Alumnae Rosary
September 23, 25	Feeder School Shadow Day
September 24	Testing Superday
September 29	Freshman StuCo Rep Election
October 1	Foundation Day
	Mass with Bishop Iffert
	Food Truck Day!
October 4	Light the Night for NDA!