



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

*Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World*

# Panda Press Weekly

September 10, 2025

THE *nda* LIFE

## Dear Panda Families,

At Notre Dame Academy, we are truly blessed to walk together as one family — sharing both life's joys and its sorrows. Last week, our community joined in prayerful remembrance of Sister Mary Paul Ann Hanneken, SND, whose joyful presence and faithful service shaped generations of Pandas. Her legacy of faith, dedication and love will continue to inspire us for years to come.

We honored Sister Paul Ann in many meaningful ways. On Wednesday, our faculty and staff prayed the rosary together for her. On Thursday, our daily decade of the rosary was offered in her name. On Friday, we celebrated her life and legacy while expressing our sympathies to the Sisters she left behind during a beautiful prayer service. That same morning, our school Mass was celebrated with her intention. And on Monday, our entire school family filled the field for a living rosary in her memory. On the Blessed Mother's birthday, hundreds of voices rose together in prayer — a moving tribute from the heart of our Panda community.

At the same time, we also celebrated our patroness, the Blessed Mother, in a joyful way: with blue cupcakes at lunch for every student. A small but sweet reminder of Mary's presence, protection and love for our NDA family.

In the midst of remembering and celebrating, we also received some wonderful news. Congratulations to Jacie Hail and Jane Schuh, who have been named Semifinalists in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. This recognition places them among the top high school seniors in the nation — a testament to their academic excellence, leadership and hard work.

As a school community, we will continue to honor both Mary and Sister Paul Ann, who reflected Mary's humility, boldness and grace in her own life. Sister Paul Ann showed us what it means to walk humbly, serve boldly and shine with grace. May we carry her example into our own lives and strive to live with the same joy, kindness and unwavering faith.

Walk in Faith,

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



**Walk in Faith!**

# DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKETS?

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

**GET YOUR LIGHT THE NIGHT TICKETS TODAY!**

Tickets for Light the Night for NDA are selling quickly, and sales will officially close Thursday September 19. This event sold out last year, and we want to do it again! Get your ticket to be part of an unforgettable evening of community, celebration, and support for Notre Dame Academy.

Join us on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at The Madison Event Center for NDA's signature fundraiser. Secure your spot here.

Tickets: <https://e.givesmart.com/events/lkR/?#page>

*Buy your tickets now!*



**October 4, 2025 | 6:00-10:00 PM | The Madison Event Center**



# FAITH IN ACTION



## FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING LITURGIES

We will celebrate mass in the Mary, Mother of the World Chapel on Friday, September 12 and Tuesday, September 16 at 7:20 a.m. All are welcome.

We will pray a decade of the rosary at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, September 11 and Monday, September 15.



## PILGRIMAGE RETREAT JUNIOR RETREAT

All juniors will take part in a one day pilgrimage retreat on either September 15, 16 or 17. Students were notified which retreat they were assigned to attend. More information about what students should bring with them and how to dress can be found [here](#). We will be visiting Sts. Boniface and James, St. Benedict, St. John the Evangelist and Mother of God churches each day.

## "LINGUA LATINA VIVIT" (THE LATIN LANGUAGE LIVES) LATIN MASS AT NDA



We are so excited to welcome you all to the first Latin Class Mass in our Mary, Mother of the World Chapel. This is a great way to experience the Latin Language in a way that is connected to the tradition and practice of our Catholic Faith. This will be the Novus Ordo mass in Latin - which is the English mass that we typically attend, but in the Latin Language. (Just as if you were to attend mass in France - it would be in the Novus Ordo in French.) This is NOT the Tridentine Latin Mass.

We look forward to celebrating this mass with you all on September 25 at 3:15 p.m. and pray that it is a tradition that we can continue in the years to come.

# Student Life



## HONORED FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

### TWO NDA SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

Notre Dame Academy is proud to announce that seniors Jacie Hail and Jane Schuh have been named Semifinalists in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are among more than 16,000 students nationwide recognized for exceptional academic achievement, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

Over 1.3 million juniors in about 20,000 high schools entered the program by taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). To reach the Semifinalist level, students had to earn some of the highest scores in the state of Kentucky.

Jacie and Jane will now have the opportunity to continue in the competition for nearly \$26 million in scholarships that will be awarded next spring. About 95 percent of Semifinalists advance to Finalist standing, and roughly half of those earn the prestigious title of National Merit Scholar®.

This remarkable honor highlights Jacie's and Jane's commitment to excellence and represents the strong tradition of academic achievement at Notre Dame Academy. We are so proud of them and look forward to celebrating their continued success!



## BLESSED MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARY!

On Monday, September 8, our NDA family celebrated Mary, our patroness, in a sweet way — with blue cupcakes at lunch for every student. A joyful reminder of her presence, protection and love for our Panda community!







## A PLACE TO INSPIRE NDA IN THE NEWS

Notre Dame Academy is getting noticed for all the right reasons. Earlier this week, De'Jah Gross from WCPO-TV visited our campus to learn more about the exciting things happening at NDA this school year.

The story highlighted the fresh energy of our new leadership team who are united in their commitment to preserve NDA's mission while leading with vision. Together, they are fostering a culture of faith, purpose and innovation that resonates with both students and families.

At the center of the spotlight is NDA's new 1906 IDEAL Innovation Space, a dynamic STEM lab designed to inspire creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration. Beginning this fall, every freshman will experience STEM concepts in this space through their Technology Communication class, and advanced students will continue to explore fields such as engineering and computer science.

As President Hitron told WCPO, the Innovation Space is "a place to inspire" and a bold step in preparing young women for leadership in science, technology, engineering, and math. Student leaders Tegan Kruer and Jane Schuh echoed this excitement, sharing how the administration's vision is aligned with what Pandas are asking for—hands-on opportunities to grow, innovate, and lead.

NDA is proud to be the only all-girls Catholic high school in Northern Kentucky, with a legacy of empowering students to make a difference. This feature is a powerful reminder that the world is watching the Panda spirit shine.

Watch the full WCPO story [HERE](#).

## 1906 IDEAL INNOVATION SPACE

Where Inquiry, Discovery, Education And Learning come alive

# Lifetouch

## ATTENTION PARENTS SCHOOL PICTURES ARE READY!

To order, log in to your account on [mylifetouch.com](https://mylifetouch.com) or create an account using your student's student ID number.

All families can also log on and order a FREE Digital SmileSafe card.

More about the Smilesafe program [here](#).

Thank you!  
Lifetouch

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### PARENT MINI NIGHT

Please join us on Thursday, September 30 for Parent Mini-Night in the evening. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be a wonderful opportunity to walk your daughter's schedule and meet her teachers. Students will be provided with the Parent Mini Night schedule soon and should make a copy and create their own schedule for you. Parents will have the opportunity to learn of the policies and procedures for the class, content to be taught, etc. We look forward to seeing you.



*Audrey Rose warming up the band...August 2025*

## LET'S GO PANDAS!

### BAND AND DANCE TEAM TAKE THE FIELD FRIDAY NIGHT

The Notre Dame Academy band will take center field Friday night, beginning the evening with a performance of the national anthem.

At halftime, the band will join forces with the NDA dance team for a show featuring "Jurassic Park" and "Paint It Black." The collaboration will showcase the hard work, energy and creativity of both groups, blending music and choreography into a spirited performance.

Band members and dancers have spent weeks preparing for the event, and their efforts reflect the dedication and school pride that define the Panda community. Families and fans are encouraged to show their support Friday as the band and dance team bring their talent to the field!



## SHADOW DAYS BEGIN

### FUTURE PANDAS FROM ST. JOE'S!

We loved welcoming the students from St. Joseph School in Crescent Springs to Notre Dame Academy yesterday. Their energy, smiles and curiosity remind us that the Panda spirit is alive and growing strong!

A highlight of their visit? A hands-on biology experiment with Mr. Stamm, where they dissected DNA from strawberries. What an exciting glimpse into science at NDA!

We can't wait to see these Future Pandas back on campus again soon!







NOTRE DAME ACADEMY  
Bambootique

NDA BAMBOOTIQUE

## PANDA SPIRIT WEAR

Show your Panda pride all season long with fresh gear from the NDA. You can shop online and find the latest Panda Fan gear [HERE](#).



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](#).

## Enter To Win

A Dyson AirWrap  
OR a \$500 Amazon  
Gift Card



OR



*\$25 per raffle  
ticket!*

All proceeds benefit *Light  
the Night for NDA*, our  
largest fundraiser of the  
year, that supports you all,  
the students!

Notre Dame Academy  
@NotreDame-Academy



venmo

You can bring cash to the Advancement Office (Room 110) or Venmo! Make sure to put in caption if the ticket is for Dyson AirWrap or \$500 Amazon Gift Card

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

## GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS FOR LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR NDA

Last week, we introduced our exciting *Light the Night for NDA* Raffle to students and tickets are already selling quickly! Parents now have the chance to join in and win either a Dyson AirWrap or a \$500 Amazon Gift Card....these are great Christmas gifts!

Tickets are just \$25/ticket, and with only 100 tickets sold for each raffle, they won't last long. All proceeds directly support *Light the Night for NDA*, our biggest fundraiser of the year benefiting every student.

Purchase via Venmo @NotreDame-Academy (please note your raffle of choice in the Venmo memo).

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF  
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.



**VIRTUS**<sup>®</sup>Online

## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

# VIRTUS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Diocese of Covington has released the updated schedule of VIRTUS trainings through the end of 2025. Sessions are offered at various schools and diocesan locations, including one here at NDA.

### Upcoming sessions include:

Diocesan Curia, Covington – Wednesday, September 11, 2025 | 9-11:30 a.m.

Diocesan Curia, Covington – Wednesday, September 11, 2025 | 6-8:30 p.m.

Diocesan Curia, Covington – Monday, September 29, 2025 | 9-11:30 a.m.

Diocesan Curia, Covington – Monday, September 29, 2025 | 6-8:30 p.m.

Diocesan Curia, Covington – Thursday, October 9, 2025 | 9-11:30 a.m.

Diocesan Curia, Covington – Thursday, October 9, 2025 | 6-8:30 p.m.

Diocesan Catholic Children's Home, Fort Mitchell – Tuesday, October 14, 2025 | 6:30-8 p.m.

Diocesan Curia, Covington – Wednesday, October 22, 2025 | 9-11:30 a.m.

Additional sessions are scheduled monthly through November 2025.

For the full list of training dates and locations, visit [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org).

For questions, contact Marylu Steffen, Safe Environment Database Coordinator and VIRTUS Administrator, at [msteffen@covdio.org](mailto:msteffen@covdio.org) or 859-392-1565.



## 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.prestigeportraits.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.



# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

## PANDA ATHLETICS

### Cross Country: Confidence Brings PRs & Season Best

The XC PaNDAs had a big weekend on the course, and the girls ran with confidence! They girls had strong performances in two races with one group going to the Diocese of Covington Championship and another rumbled with some of the states best at Rumble in the Jungle. Nearly half the team set new 5k personal records while almost everyone else ran their fastest times of the year! The XC PaNDA's have strong momentum heading into the second half of the season. Coach Joe's message, "Keep believing in yourselves, show up ready to work, and great things await you!"

### Golf

The golf team was busy this week! Tuesday we held a joint practice with the Varsity and JV teams at the Reeves Par 3 working on approaches to the green. The joint practices have been beneficial for a cohesive team.

Wednesday we had Varsity and JV matches with Conner. Both teams were victorious! Thursday Varsity had a match with St. Ursula and suffered a loss, however Maria Penaranda was the co-medalist with a score of 41. JV had a match with Campbell County and won handily. Masie Schneeman had her personal best score of 48! Saturday the Varsity team travelled to Carrollton and played in the Marcus Camacho Invitational. The team played very well and placed 7th out of 18 teams.

Next up is a JV match with Walton-Verona and Varsity prep for Conference and Regionals.

### Volleyball

News from last week:

NDA Varsity defeated Mercy Academy in 4 sets.

Program sweep versus Roger Bacon for Alumni Day.

Upcoming events:

Wednesday, Sept. 10: NDA Volleyball at Sacred Heart (FR 5:30 p.m. / JV 6:30 p.m. / VAR 7:30 p.m.)

Playing for a Purpose:

It will be held at Dixie Heights on October 11 with game times at 4:30/6:00/7:30. [Here](#) is the link for the playing for a purpose t-shirt. [Here](#) is the link for the Playing for a Purpose game. No cash will be accepted at the gate. Maximum tickets sold will be 1400.

### Soccer

Any great achievement is preceded by many difficulties and many lessons. The first half of the season has been both difficult and full of lessons. The girls have been through some tough battles, and have not given up!!!

With 7 matches to go, the general consensus in the locker room is to end the season with 7 more wins, and continue that streak through October and November!

Wednesday we take on Ryle at Buenger Sports Complex @ 5:00, 6:30, and 8:00.

Saturday, we are lined up versus that Blue Team from Ft. Thomas. Freshman play at 9 a.m., JV and Varsity play at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., respectively.

Let's show up for the girls, and finish the regular season strong!

Please join us at **Kicks for Cancer** as the Soccer Pandas dedicate a night to raising awareness and support for individuals and families who have or are battling breast cancer.

Learn how you can join the fight by visiting with organizations **I Have Wings** and **Karen Wellington Foundation** onsite, as well as enjoy tasty treats from local food trucks **Marty's Waffles**, **Better Blends** and **Wildside Experience**.

Help us recognize our survivors, fighters and honor those who lost their battle during our special halftime recognition ceremony.

Wear your **PINK** to show support to those who are fighting or have fought breast cancer and let them know that **Nothing is Done Alone**.





# COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### UPCOMING TESTING DAYS AT NDA



We will have two upcoming testing days at NDA. On September 24, 2025 and Oct. 14, 2025. The freshmen and sophomores will be taking the CERT test (a practice ACT) electronically and the juniors will be taking the practice ACT on paper in September. The seniors will hear from a local empowerment program, Thrive, that will help them with being college campus ready and safe. Juniors and seniors will dismiss at 11:30 and freshmen and sophomores will dismiss at 1 p.m. Freshmen and sophomores will need to pack a lunch.

On October 14, 2025 we will be hosting the PSAT (preliminary SAT) for our sophomores and juniors. Freshmen will have a retreat that day and seniors will either be taking the ACT or doing a college/career day. We will start at the normal Wednesday 9am start time. Dismissal times are to be determined.

*congrats!*

## CONGRATS PANDAS!

### NAVIGO SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Congratulations to our NDA students who were selected to participate in the NaviGo Scholars Programs. Each will be participating in a Career related program to help them discover more about their distinct areas of Law, Mental Health, Business, Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence.

Alysse Coupe

Catherine Coutsoftides

Addison DeCastro

Elizabeth Fite

Lorna Knarr

Madison Kramer

Frances Maier

Kylie Richardson

Caitlin Ross

Leilani Simpson

Maria Stepp

Sophie Wilfong



## LEARN ABOUT THE COURT SYSTEM

### TEEN COURT OPPORTUNITY

All students were emailed information about Teen Court. This is a great way to volunteer and also learn a great deal about the court system. The first meeting for Teen Court is TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 at 6 p.m., at the Campbell District Courthouse, Courtroom 2 (Judge Sizemore). Students have the email with the permission slip needed to be able to be a part of the program. This slip can be brought to the first meeting.



## SHARING OUR Community News

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

- Mary's Meals, A Simple Solution to World Hunger
- Point Arc Fest 2025

## Important dates

September 12	Mid-Quarter
	Club Orientation
September 15, 16, 17	Junior Pilgrimage Retreat
September 17	Donor Scholarship Breakfast
September 18	Alumnae Rosary
September 23	St. Pius X Shadow Day
September 24	Testing Superday
September 25	St. Agnes Shadow Day
September 29	Freshman StuCo Rep Election
September 30	Parent Mini Night
October 1	Foundation Day
	Mass with Bishop Iffert
	Installation of Ms. Lauren Hitron
	Food Truck Day!
October 2	Information Night for Prospective Panda Families!
October 4	Light the Night for NDA!
October 5	Golden Girls Mass and Luncheon
October 9	No School - Faculty Professional Development
October 10	No School - Faculty Professional Development
October 13	Non-Feeder School Shadow Day
October 14	Super Day - Frosh/Retreat, Soph & Jr/PSAT, SR/ACT or College Day
October 31	Halloween Fun at the end of the day!