



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

*Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World*

# Panda Press Weekly

September 24, 2025

THE *nda* LIFE

## Dear Panda Families,

This week, we celebrate a remarkable milestone for Notre Dame Academy. NDA has once again been recognized on the national stage for academic excellence and Catholic education. The Council for American Private Education has nominated NDA as a 2025 National Blue Ribbon School — the fourth time in our history we have earned this distinction. **This makes us the only Catholic high school in the Diocese of Covington to receive this honor four times and one of just two private schools in Kentucky recognized this year.** We congratulate Newport Central Catholic on receiving their first Blue Ribbon nomination this year.

On Tuesday, our school community came together for Blue Ribbon Day — a joyful and faith-filled celebration of this achievement. The halls rang with “blue” music between classes, every student received a Blue Ribbon T-shirt and necklace, and we shared 500 cups of blue ice cream at lunch. Our day concluded with a spirited all-school assembly featuring prayer, reflection, a school-wide game, confetti cannons, and the NDA band. The energy in the gym captured the pride, gratitude and spirit of Panda Nation.

This honor is not just about awards. It is a reflection of our mission — to educate young women to make a difference in the world through faith, excellence, leadership and service. It affirms the daily commitment of our students, the extraordinary dedication of our faculty and staff, and the unwavering support of our families, alumnae and friends.

As we look ahead, I invite you to join us for Parent Mini Night on Tuesday, September 30. This special evening gives you the chance to step into your daughter’s shoes, follow her schedule, and meet the teachers who inspire and guide her each day. It is a meaningful way to connect with her academic journey, experience the NDA spirit, and witness the passion and dedication of our faculty in action.

On behalf of our entire school community, thank you for your continued support of NDA. Together, we will continue to build on the legacy of excellence and faith that has defined Notre Dame Academy for more than 120 years.

Walk in Faith,

*Mrs. Lisa Timmerding*

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



**4X  
BLUE RIBBON  
SCHOOL**

**Walk in Faith!**



# BLUE RIBBON DAY!



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY  
*Educating Women to Make A Difference*

**4X BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**



1996 | 2012 | 2019 | 2025





# LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR NDA

## TAKE A CHANCE RAFFLES

Take your chance to win a \$500 Amazon gift card, Dyson Airwrap or this great Bourbon run, including EH Taylor Small Batch, Eagle Rare 10 Year, Sazerac Rye, Green Weller Special Reserve, Buffalo Trace and Blanton's N! Chances are \$25 each and only 100 chances sold for each raffle.

Get your raffle chances now online or simply Venmo @NotreDame-Academy memo (the raffle you want).



## ONLY 100 TICKETS AVAILABLE! FIRST CHOICE

First choice tickets for Light the Night for NDA are on sale now! Only 100 tickets are available at \$50 each. The lucky winner will get to choose an item from the silent auction list, excluding luxury items, before the event on Saturday October 4, 2025. We have some great silent auction items this year, from a party bus, Hamilton tickets to a Tee Higgins signed photograph and amazing spa packages. You can snag it first with a first choice win!

Get your first choice chances now [online](#) or simply Venmo @NotreDame-Academy memo first choice

## GOING LIVE! SILENT AUCTION

Our Silent Auction goes live this evening, and you won't want to miss it! From unique experiences to must-have items, there is something for everyone. Browse the auction and place your bids [here](#)!



# FAITH IN ACTION



## FAITH FORMATION FRESHMEN RETREAT

All Freshmen are required to take part in their class retreat on Tuesday, October 14 on NDA's campus. The retreat will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will end around 12:30 p.m. when they will be dismissed for the day. More information about expectations for the day and what to bring will be shared with the Freshmen in the coming weeks.

## FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING LITURGIES

We will celebrate mass in the Mary, Mother of the World Chapel at 7:20 a.m. on Friday, September 26 and Tuesday, September 30.

We will celebrate mass on Foundation Day, Wednesday, October 1 at 9:30 a.m. Bishop Iffert will be our celebrant and the Sisters of Notre Dame will be our special guests.

We will pray a decade of the rosary at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, September 25 and Monday, September 29 in the chapel.

We will have adoration in the chapel during PPT on Tuesday, September 30.



## "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 tomorrow, 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



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### PARENT MINI NIGHT

Please join us on Tuesday, 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.



## SAVE THE DATE

### MOTHER-DAUGHTER

Notre Dame Academy invites our community to one of our most beloved traditions — the annual Mother-Daughter event on Sunday, November 16. This cherished gathering is an opportunity for our students to celebrate the special women in their lives — their mothers — and to honor the unique bond they share.

More details about the program will be shared soon. We hope you will join us for this treasured tradition as we honor the women who walk hand in hand with our Pandas on their journey of faith and growth.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### UNIFORM SKIRT REMINDER

We want our students to take pride in their uniforms and in representing our school well. At this time, we are noticing that many uniform skirts are far too short and not in compliance with our dress code policy. Rolling skirts or leaving hems unadjusted has become a common issue, and we are asking for parent support in helping us correct this. Please check your daughter's uniform skirt and ensure that it meets the required length. Taking pride in a neat, appropriate uniform helps create a positive and respectful school environment for all. Students not in compliance will continue to receive warnings, and further action may follow if adjustments are not made.

#### **Uniform Expectations from Student/Parent Handbook**

The handbook states - (page 25)

*The bottom of the skirt should not be higher than the mid-thigh and should be of an acceptable and tasteful length. \*This is at the discretion of the female staff and administration.*







NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

OCTOBER 1, 2025

# FOUNDATION DAY

*Honoring the Sisters of Notre Dame*



*Years of More*

MORE AT NDA!

## FOUNDATION DAY

On October 1, Notre Dame Academy celebrates Foundation Day by honoring the legacy of the Sisters of Notre Dame. A gift to the Annual Fund not only sustains NDA's mission but also helps keep tuition affordable for all families.

For 120 years, NDA has been more:

More than just an education, a transformation.

More than just a classroom, a community of faith.

More than just preparation for college, a formation for life.

Join us in celebrating 120 Years of More by helping us get the Annual Fund to \$120,000 this Foundation Day. Your generosity ensures this transformative Catholic education remains accessible to every young woman called to NDA.

We invite you to give [here](#)!

STUDENT-DIRECTED PRODUCTION

## ROAD TRIP SHOWCASE AUDITIONS

Notre Dame Academy students are invited to audition for this year's student-directed showcase, Road Trip. This no-cut activity is open to everyone and offers students the opportunity to share their talents in singing, acting, and dance.

Auditions will take place in October:

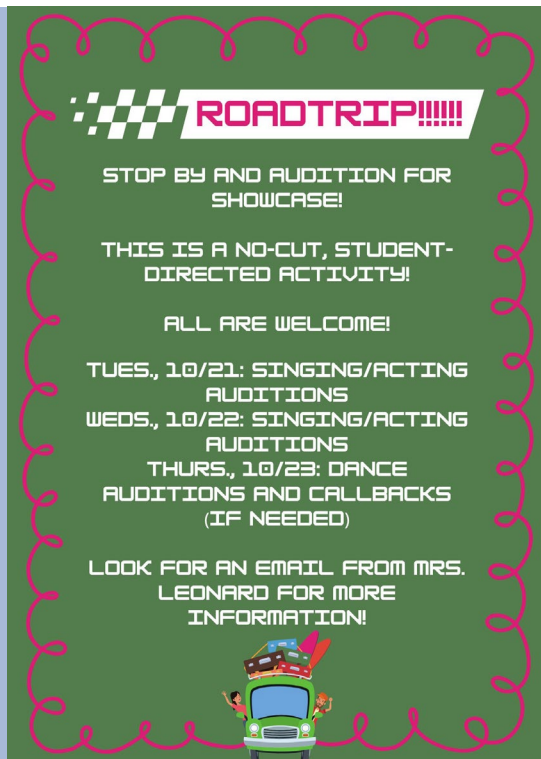
Tuesday, Oct. 21: Singing/acting auditions

Wednesday, Oct. 22: Singing/acting auditions

Thursday, Oct. 23: Dance auditions and callbacks, if needed

All are welcome to participate. Students are encouraged to watch for an email from Mrs. Leonard with more information about the process.

This annual showcase highlights the creativity, dedication, and collaboration of our students and is a favorite event for the NDA community.



DRESS DOWN FOR A CAUSE

## STUDENTS CAN SUPPORT LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR NDA TOMORROW!

Pandas can dress down this Thursday for \$3 or a new gift card. All proceeds benefit Light the Night for NDA, our school's largest fundraiser supporting academics, teachers, and student opportunities.

Show your spirit and help make this event a success!



## SHADOWING AT NDA

# FUTURE PANDAS VISIT CAMPUS

Notre Dame Academy recently welcomed 8th grade students from Blessed Sacrament School and St. Pius X School to campus for special shadow days. These visits gave students the chance to explore NDA's classes, meet our faculty, and experience Panda life firsthand.

In the science lab, Blessed Sacrament students extracted DNA from strawberries and joined our science department for an exciting combustion experiment. They also spent time in textiles, where they created scrunchies and observed NDA students sewing zipper bags.

The following week, we gave a big Panda welcome to the 8th graders from St. Pius XI! Their visit included observing our Honors Computer Science class, where NDA seniors guided them through hands-on coding fun. They also rolled up their sleeves in the science lab to extract DNA from strawberries and participate in a combustion experiment — a true Panda STEM adventure!

It was a joy to share the NDA experience with both Blessed Sacrament and St. Pius X students. We hope their time on campus gave them a glimpse of the many opportunities and experiences that await them as future Pandas!



**GO EAGLES!**



**GO PANTHERS!**

## NDA BAMBOOTIQUE

# PANDA SPIRIT WEAR

Stay dry in style! With rainy days ahead, Notre Dame Academy's Bambootique has you covered. A new selection of rain gear is now available for purchase, helping our Pandas stay dry while showing off their school spirit. Stop by the Bambootique to shop the latest arrivals and be ready for whatever the forecast brings. You can shop online and find the latest Panda Fan gear [HERE](#).



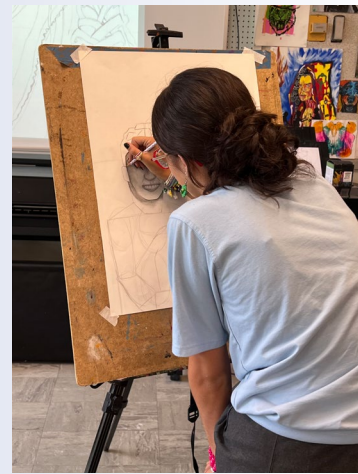
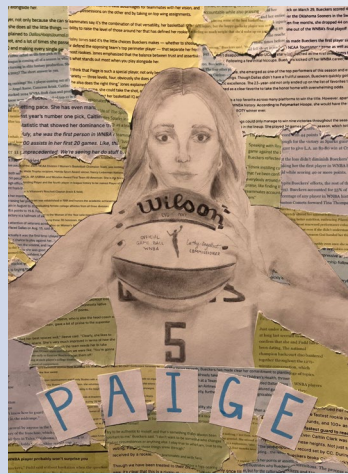


## LAYERS OF IDENTITY

# EXPLORING MIXED MEDIA PORTRAITS

In this mixed media project, our students began by creating a detailed charcoal portrait of a person of their choosing whether a celebrity, a friend, or a family member. Charcoal allowed them to explore strong contrasts, shading techniques, and expressive mark making to capture the likeness and personality of their subject. Once the foundation of the portrait was complete, students expanded their work by integrating collage elements. These collage additions were carefully selected to symbolize and represent aspects of the individual's identity, interests, or story, adding layers of meaning beyond the traditional portrait.

To push the work further, students were challenged to incorporate acrylic paint into the composition, uniting all three mediums charcoal, collage, and paint into a cohesive piece. The combination of textures, colors, and materials required creative problem-solving as students worked to balance the different elements without losing the clarity of their subject. This project encouraged them to think deeply about how visual choices communicate identity while practicing advanced skills in composition, contrast, and mixed media techniques. The final artworks not only showcased technical ability but also expressed the individuality and character of the chosen person through a thoughtful blend of mediums.



## DELICIOUS NEWS!

# WEEKLY LUNCH MENU

Delicious options await in the NDA cafeteria! A hot lunch and full salad bar will be available for purchase every day, giving students a variety of fresh and hearty choices throughout the week.

This week's lunch menu and the cafeteria price sheet are available [HERE](#) for easy reference. Families are encouraged to check the menu often to help students plan ahead for meals they'll enjoy.

A special thank-you goes out to our dedicated cafeteria staff, who work hard each day to prepare healthy, tasty meals for our Pandas. Their behind-the-scenes efforts help fuel our students for learning, athletics, and all the activities that fill their days at NDA!



# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

## FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

### PANDA ATHLETICS

#### Cross Country

The Pandas had an incredible weekend on the course. Varsity ran tough in Williamstown while the JV team brought home a first-place finish. At the Midwest Catholic Championship, the team battled hard and earned a second-place finish against some of the best competition in the region.

Up next, the Pandas will head to Twilight in PR'ville, one of the top cross country facilities in the country. The atmosphere promises to be electric, and the competition will be strong. Coaches and parents are excited to see the Pandas shine under the lights as they continue their push toward the end of the season.

#### Volleyball

Thursday, Sept. 25 – Pandas face off at home against North Oldham while we honor our faculty and staff. Come show your support for our team and your appreciation for our faculty and staff!

Next week

- Monday, Sept. 29 – Pandas face Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy.
- Later in the week – Varsity travels to Chicago for the ASICS Challenge hosted by Mother McAuley.



Playing for a Purpose ticket link - Sat, Oct 11, 2025 at 4:30 PM

You must purchase your ticket online ahead of game day: [Get tickets here.](#)

#### Golf

The varsity team participated in the conference tournament on Tuesday, Sept. 16, and came away with second place.

Congratulations to the varsity team for advancing to the first round of state next week by placing second in the Region 7 tournament on Monday, Sept. 22. Go Pandas! The team advances to the state tournament on Monday, Sept. 29, at Pendleton Hills Country Club.

#### Soccer

The soccer team was successful against Beech last Wednesday evening. Both JV and varsity won their matches.

The Holy Cross game was rained out, and varsity will play on Oct. 1. Up next for the soccer team is Conner TONIGHT, Wednesday, Sept. 24, at NDA. Come out and cheer them on!



# COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



OCTOBER 14TH

## PSAT TESTING DAY, FOR JUNIORS AND SOPHOMORES

All juniors and sophomores will take the PSAT on Tuesday, October 14. We will start at 9 a.m. that day but we want students to arrive as close to 8:45 as possible as the test will start at 9 a.m. Juniors and sophomores will need to pack a lunch that day and we will dismiss the juniors and sophomores around noon. Freshmen will have a retreat that day and dismiss closer to 1:30 p.m. Seniors are either taking the ACT that day, visiting a college or career shadowing.



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

## NDA COLLEGE VISIT SCHEDULE

[CLICK HERE](#) for a list of college visits specifically for NDA students/families. The visits are in the hallway outside the cafeteria. All students are welcome to visit the reps.

JOIN TODAY!

## SIGN UP FOR DRUG FREE CLUB!



At NDA, the majority of students are members, and we celebrate their commitment with rewards like gift cards, goody bags, hot chocolate mornings, and more. Freshmen can sign up for all four years and receive senior year free. NDA also subsidizes the cost, making membership just \$25 per year. To sign up, please visit [this link here](#). Questions? Contact Mrs. Maggard at [maggarde@ndapandas.org](mailto:maggarde@ndapandas.org).

COUNSELORS LEAD PRESENTATIONS

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Over the course of the next few weeks the counselors we are presenting to students in Religion classes about healthy relationships, setting boundaries with friends and how to help others that may be in unhealthy situations. Please contact [Chrissy Monohan](#) if you have any questions or would prefer not to have your daughter view the presentation.







## 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
- Diocesan Workshops

## Important dates

September 25	Dress Down Day for \$3 or New Gift Card for Light the Night!
	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 21	Information Night for Prospective Panda Families!
October 28	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 31	Halloween Fun at the end of the day!