

#### **Dear Parents,**

Dear Parents,

What a week it has been at Notre Dame Academy. As our students like to say, "It's a great day to be a Panda!" We had a festive Friday last week with our Halloween activities followed by an exciting Saturday with our varsity soccer team winning the 2021 state championship!

This is truly the kind of week a principal/interim president lives for. To see our students fully engaged in their high school experience, using their God-given gifts and talents to the best of their ability, and supporting each other inside and outside of the classroom - it doesn't get any better than this. Our students are truly living the gospel message of Jesus - loving God with all their hearts, souls, mind and strength and loving their neighbors, teammates and fellow Pandas as themselves.

Earlier today you should have received an email from me with a <u>letter from Kendra McGuire</u>, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Covington, attached as well as an updated <u>Diocesan COVID-19 Return to School</u> <u>Requirements for the 2021-22 School Year</u> with updated protocols. According to this latest update, masks will be optional at NDA and other diocesan schools starting Monday, November 8. **Please note: masks will be required in the school building until then and during our Open House event this Sunday.** Mrs. McGuire's letter also highlights and defines the factors that will inform a school's decision to revert back to a mask requirement. Since we are off school on Monday, we will review these new expectations with our students with a Google Meet on Tuesday morning at the start of 1st period.

Please know that we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation both in our NDA community and the community at large. As always, our goal is to protect the health and wellbeing of our students, faculty and staff while continuing to meet our responsibility to educate our students and provide them with in-person instruction.

Have a great week!

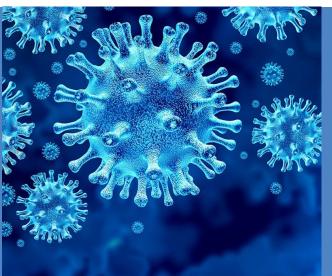
In Notre Dame,

Jack Van Hon

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



Special thanks to Sr. Paul Ann and Sr. Mary Rachel for getting out their State Champ sign to greet our students on Tuesday morning!



### WEEKLY UPDATE

As of today, Wednesday, November 3, we have had 0 new reported cases of members of our community testing positive for COVID-19 within the last week. We have also had 0 additional members of our community who are currently in quarantine due to a reported exposure to CO-VID-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 one of our school nurses, Tina Sizemore, RN., at 859.292.1843 | sizemoret@ndapandas.org or Melanie Martin, RN., at 859.292.1843 | martinmel@ndapandas.org.

### FROM THE SCHOOL NURSES IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Dear Parents,

We would like to take the opportunity to address a few items related to the updated COVID-19 protocols that will take effect on Monday, November 8 at NDA. First and foremost, please note that the updates are based on data collected by the Diocese of Covington along with data released by the Kentucky Department of Public Health. At NDA, our decision making pertaining to our COVID-19 mitigation strategies has been data driven from day one and we will continue to monitor the data to ensure that the health and wellbeing of our students always comes first.

Beginning Monday, November 8, masks will be recommended but not required. Although masks may not be required, we will continue encouraging the use of masks for those who choose to do so and we will respect each other's decision whether or not to wear a mask. There are appropriate times to consider wearing a mask such as if you or someone you live with has a compromised immune system or cannot be vaccinated. Students may also consider wearing a mask if they have an important event coming up.

ALSO, we will continue to follow other mitigation strategies at NDA such as social distancing. Student seating will continue to be spaced three feet apart.

Please read through both the <u>letter from Kendra McGuire</u>, as well as the updated <u>Diocesan COVID-19 Return to School</u> <u>Requirements for the 2021-22 School Year</u>. If you have any questions about either of these documents or COVID-19 related issues involving your family, feel free to reach out to us.

Thanks,

Tina Sizemore, RN. NDA School Nurse Melanie Martin, RN. NDA School Nurse



#### PARENT RESOURCE COVID-19 INFORMATION

There are many important resources for parents and students on NDA's COVID-19 Information page on the website <u>HERE</u>.

- Pandas Return to Campus Plan
- $\cdot$  Information from the Nurse's Office
- Daily Personal Assessment questions
- COVID-19 Vaccine information
- Diocesan communications

## HAPPY HALLOWEEN















# **Student Life**



#### THANK YOU BISHOP IFFERT! NO SCHOOL - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

On Tuesday, The Most Reverend Bishop John Iffert visited NDA for the first time in order to attend a pep rally celebrating NDA's 2021 State Soccer Champions. Although Bishop Iffert's ordination and installation as the eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Covington was just over a month ago, he has become a big fan of our Soccer Pandas. Bishop Iffert attended a regular season soccer game at NDA as well as our state championship game and the Soccer Pandas gave him a signed game ball in appreciation of his support. Bishop Iffert received cheers and a standing ovation when he gave the school an off day in recognition of the State Soccer Championship!

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION! DISMISSAL ADJUSTMENT

Since last Thursday we have adjusted our dismissal procedures in an effort to create the safest environment for our Pandas and empty our parking lot in the most efficient manner possible.

#### PLEASE NOTE: THE TRAFFIC ISSUES ON OUR PARKING LOT YESTER-DAY WERE CAUSED BY THE MALFUNCTIONING OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHT.

We will continue to use the following dismissal times temporarily to see if it helps increase the efficiency of our dismissal process. We will reevaluate tomorrow and make adjustments as needed.

- Seniors will dismiss first at 3:01 p.m.
- Juniors will dismiss next at 3:06 p.m.
- Sophomores and Freshmen will dismiss together at 3:10 p.m.

Until their grade level is dismissed, students will remain in their 7th period classrooms with their teachers. Recognizing that 5 minutes for each grade level may not be needed for the Seniors and Juniors to exit the parking lot, administration will make adjustments as needed over the next two weeks until the safest and most efficient dismissal is identified. We thank you in advance for you cooperation!

Parents/guardians who pick up their daughters at the end of the day must park in a parking spot or wait in line in the driveway. Cars waiting to pick up in the aisles or in the fire lanes are not permissible and could negatively impact the dismissal process.

#### CAMPUS MINISTRY MORNING MASS

This week we will celebrate Mass in our beautiful *Mary, Mother of the World* Chapel at 7:20 a.m. tomorrow. All are welcome to join us!

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ





#### PEN PAL PANDAS UGANDA PANDAS

The Uganda Pandas met for the first time last week, and their first set of pen pal letters will be delivered to our sister school in Buseesa, Uganda at the end of this month. Uganda Pandas are reminded that letters were due to the front office today. A huge thank you to Ellie Scheffter, Grethen Wahoff, Ella Weitzel and Katie Crail for their leadership. Special thank you to Sr. Rita and Sr. Judith for joining the meeting and sharing their firsthand experiences with the Uganda Pandas.







#### HANDS-ON LEARNING LATIN STUDENTS AND ANCIENT LIFE

Last week, Ms. Barnes' Latin classes of all levels were treated to a hands-on pottery presentation by Sarah Beal, a Ph.D. candidate in Roman Archaeology at UC. Students learned about what archaeologists do, what we can learn about Roman life from studying ancient pottery, and the different categories of pottery. They then got to sort through a variety of different pottery fragments in groups and use what they had learned to identify what type of pottery they belonged to and try to envision what the pieces would have looked like if the artifacts had been whole. Students also got the rare chance to examine and even hold a few pieces of whole pottery. All of the pottery and pot sherds for the presentation came from the University of Cincinnati Classics Department's collection of artifacts and were thousands of years old! An alumna of UC's Classics graduate program, Ms. Barnes invited Sarah for this guest talk, titled "Sherd Nerds: How Broken Pots Teach Us About Ancient Life," as part of the UC Classics Department's Outreach Program.

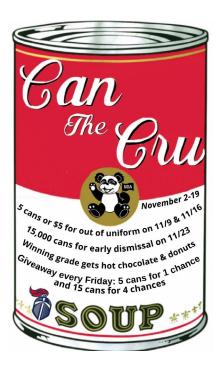


#### CONGRATULATIONS FIRST PLACE IN PROSE

One of Mr. Byrd's American Lit students, Nicolette Cottingham, won first place in prose for the sophomore level of the Haunt Your Library Halloween Writing Contest sponsored by the Kenton County Public Library. Her short story was called "The Siren of Siglufjörður" and can be found on our website <u>HERE</u>.

#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE CAN THE CRU!

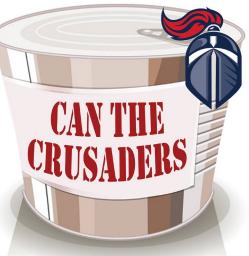
Our annual can food drive will begin next Tuesday, November 2, and go through Friday, November 19. All proceeds will go to St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry. Below is a list of items that they are especially in need of. This year they are requesting NO CORN OR GREEN BEANS!



PLEASE BRING IN THE FOLLOWING: Stuffing Knorr pasta sides Spaghetti sauce Spaghetti

Spaghetti Gravy - Turkey, Chicken, Beef Pancake mix Syrup Cake mix Icing for cakes Flour Cooking oil Sugar - pure cane, brown, powdered Cookie mixes Jiffy Corn muffin mix

Ramen Noodles - Chicken and Beef flavor Ketchup Mustard Mayonnaise Salad dressings Canned tuna in water Canned chicken in water Chef Boy R Dee Ravioli Canned Beef Stew Canned Chili Salt Pepper Mixed Vegetable Cereal Cereal Bars



Minute Rice - White and Brown Mac & Cheese Shells and cheese Instant and canned potatoes Strawberry jelly Grape jelly Peanut butter

#### EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

**YEARBOOK NEWS** 

The 2021 NDA yearbook, *Together*, has gone to press and is scheduled to ship between Halloween and Thanksgiving. A limited number of extra copies will be available for students who did not pre-order. Books are \$70 and checks should be made out to NDA.

The 2022 NDA yearbook, *Make it Count*, is available for pre-order now at jostens.com: Order now for the special fall price of \$60.





#### PANDA PRIDE SPIRIT WEAR SALE

Mrs. McLeod is clearing out the T-shirts in the Bambootique! Check out all of the \$5 t-shirts online <u>HERE</u>.



#### 2 WORK STUDY POSITIONS AVAILABLE WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

As things continue to get back to normal, we will be moving toward more self-service in the cafeteria as we did prior to COVID-19. Beginning this week, we are no longer using the lunch order form. Once we have the necessary personnel to staff the cafeteria, we will be adding the salad bar and the use of trays back into our lunchtime routine.

If you are interested in working in NDA's dish room through our Work Study Program, (M,T,H,F: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | W: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.) please contact our cafeteria manager at <u>ndahr@ndapandas.org</u>.

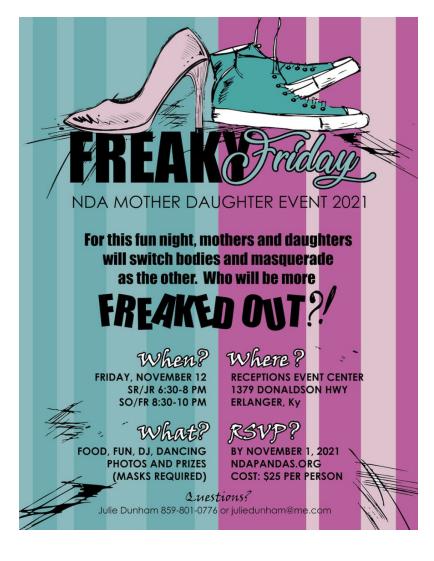
Below is next week's menu. In the future, you can find the menu here:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 CHICKEN FAJITA WITH TOPPINGS, VEGETABLE, FRUIT WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 BUFFALO CHICKEN WRAP, SNACK, FRUIT THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 STEAK HOAGIE, GREEN BEANS, FRUIT FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 PIZZA (SUBJECT TO CHANGE), CORN, FRUIT

LAST CHANCE

#### **2021 MOTHER DAUGHTER**

Register today for NDA's Mother Daughter Dance! <u>CLICK HERE</u> to register by tonight!



# **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**



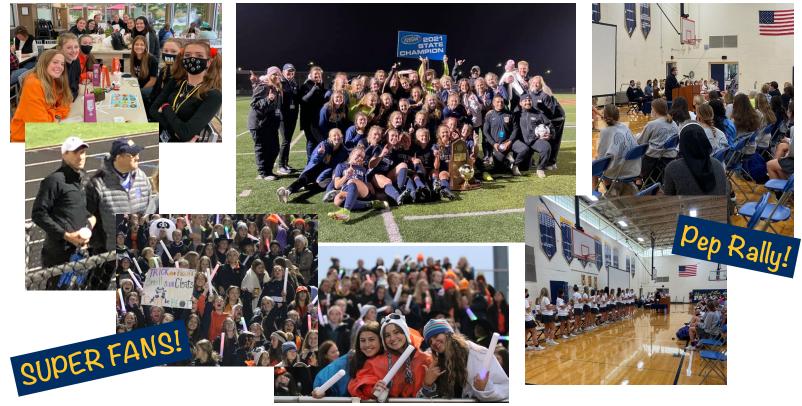
#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

### **2021 STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONS!**

Soccer won the KHSAA State Title this past Saturday over South Oldham with a score of 1-0. They end the season with a record of 28-0-1 setting state records for most total wins in a season, most shutouts in a season and fewest goals allowed in a season. Congrats to your soccer Pandas!









#### GREAT SEASON VOLLEYBALL NEWS

Volleyball finishes the season as the Region runner up after falling to St. Henry in four sets in the Region Finals at Connor last Thursday.



#### GREAT SEASON CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Cross Country ended the season as a team at Regionals on October 23rd. Sophomore Clara Heberling and Senior Adair Dooley headed down to State this past Saturday where they finished 128th and 154th respectively.

# COUPON BOOKS!

#### PANDA SAVINGS! COUPON BOOKS

Coupon Books will be delivered to NDA in mid November for pick up to sell for those who chose to sell books. More info in next week's Panda Press Weekly.



### ATTENTION PANDA FANS WINTER SPORTS PASSES

Winter Sports Passes Go on Sale Monday! You can purchase your winter sports pass, good for admission to all regular season home winter athletic events starting Monday here: <u>https://gofan.co/app/school/KY6490</u>

### **COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES**



### HOW TO BEST TALK WITH YOUR TEEN PARENTING RESOURCES

Have you been struggling with an angry or moody teen? Sometimes it can be incredibly difficult to manage the strong emotions your teen is experiencing - especially since it seems to always be unleashed on you, the parent. Learn more about where the emotions are coming from and how to handle with as much grace as possible by reading <u>this article</u> from the Child Mind Institute.



#### GSE APPLICATION PROCESS

### **GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR ENTREPRENEURS**

Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors can apply for the 2022 KY <u>Governor's School for Entre-</u> preneurs. (GSE) beginning November 15! **GSE is offering 6 virtual events via Zoom this fall to showcase the GSE experience and dive into the application process. Find links to register** <u>HERE</u>.



#### GSA APPLICATION PROCESS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

The application for GSA 2022 opens up today!



#### GSP APPLICATION PROCESS GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM

<u>GSP 2021-2022 Applications and Forms</u> are now available on the GSP website, under the Applicant's tab, along with <u>Helpful Hints and Videos</u>. **NDA's GSP Applications are due No-vember 22**. Contact Mrs. Hildreth with your questions.



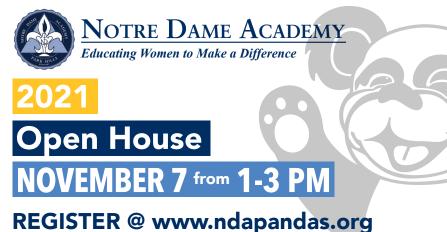
#### RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS NDA PARENT TOOLBOX

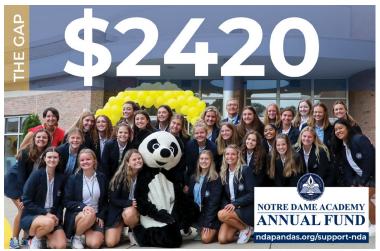
NDA's counselors have put together some very useful tools for our parents <u>HERE</u>.

### **ADVANCING OUR MISSION**

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP! **GOT COOKIES?**

Parents, we need your help to make sure our prospective Pandas and their parents feel welcomed at our Open House. Please sign up to bring in food items or to work at the refreshment table for this important event. Sign up HERE.





#### **#SUPPORTING OUR PANDAS ANNUAL FUND 2021**

NDA's Development Department is responsible for additional fundraising to support the educational experience we offer at NDA. While tuition covers much of our expenses, as part of our mission to keep tuition affordable for all who wish to attend NDA, we have a persistent gap of \$2,420 per student between what we receive in tuition and the real cost of educating each of our students.

Please support NDA's mission to educate young women to make a difference in the world with a gift to this year's Annual Fund. You can donate online HERE.

#### THANK YOU! SCHOLARSHIP BENEFACTORS

Notre Dame Academy is blessed with many generous benefactors who have established named scholarships at NDA. You can find our entire list of scholarship benefactors HERE.



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#### SHARING OUR Community News

You can find a complete list of community news <u>HERE</u>.

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

### **Important dates**

November 5	Remembrance Mass
November 7	Open House
	Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 8	NO SCHOOL - Thank you Bishop Iffert!
November 12	Mother/Daughter Dance at Receptions
November 19	Panda Funfest for incoming 8th Graders
November 20	JR Retreat (1 of 4 options)
November 23	Thanksgiving Prayer Service (ADJ)
November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 1	SO Retreat
December 4	JR Retreat (2 of 4 options)
	FR Semi Formal Dance at NDA
December 8	No School: Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 10	In School Band and Choral Concert
December 11	HSPT and ACT at NDA
	Silver Bells Dance
December 13	Advent Mass (ADJ)
December 15-17	Midterm Exams