



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

November 12, 2025

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Panda Families,

This past week has been filled with moments that reflect the very best of who we are at Notre Dame Academy. On Sunday, we opened our doors to so many potential Panda families during our annual Open House. The excitement and energy on campus were incredible. Classrooms were alive with curiosity, our hallways echoed with laughter and conversation, and our visitors truly felt what makes NDA such a special place. I am so proud of our student ambassadors, faculty, and staff who came together to make the day a success. Their warmth and dedication beautifully showcased the spirit of our community and the excellence that defines a Catholic education at Notre Dame Academy.

Just a few days later, on Tuesday, we shared another powerful experience as our school gathered for the first-ever White Table Ceremony in honor of Veterans Day. This solemn and moving tradition paid tribute to the women and men who have served our country, especially those who are missing in action or held as prisoners of war. Watching our students approach the ceremony with such reverence and understanding was deeply touching and a true reminder that faith, respect, and gratitude are central to life at NDA. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all veterans in our community for their service, courage, and sacrifice. Your example inspires our students to live with purpose and integrity.

Our annual canned food drive for St. Vincent de Paul also began this week, continuing a long-standing tradition of service and compassion. Each donation, no matter how small, reflects our students' commitment to caring for others and living out the Gospel call to serve those in need. Thank you for your support of this important tradition!

As we move through November, gratitude continues to shape our days. I am thankful for our students who lead with joy and purpose, for our faculty and staff who give their hearts to our mission, and for our parents and alumnae whose support sustains our school community. Together, we are truly living our faith in action.

Walk in Faith,

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



Walk in Faith!

FAITH IN ACTION



RAISING AWARENESS

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Last week in the large group Catholic Social Teaching classes the topic of Human Trafficking was covered. Students were introduced to the Catholic Church's teachings about Human Trafficking as well as the initiatives the Catholic Church has started to raise awareness of and minister to the victims of Human Trafficking. We also explored misconceptions that are often believed when it comes to Human Trafficking. Det. Mary Braun of the Cincinnati Police Dept. came and shared some of her experiences as a member of the FBI CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) task force with our juniors. While this is often a hard topic to discuss, it is an injustice that affects so many people in our world and it is important for our students to see the broader scope of trafficking and root causes that lead to it.



FAITH FORMATION

UPCOMING LITURGIES

We will pray a decade of the rosary in chapel at 7:45 a.m. on November 13 & 14.

The St. Hildegard of Bingen Family will gather to pray the rosary together on Friday, November 14 during homeroom time.

Fr. Kunath will be here to celebrate Mass at 7:20 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18 in our chapel.

FAITH IN ACTION

LIVING THE GOSPEL AT NDA

Faith at NDA grows through community. In friendships rooted in kindness and understanding, our students find the strength and encouragement to live their faith more fully.

Below, students share how faith and friendship are connected in their NDA experience.

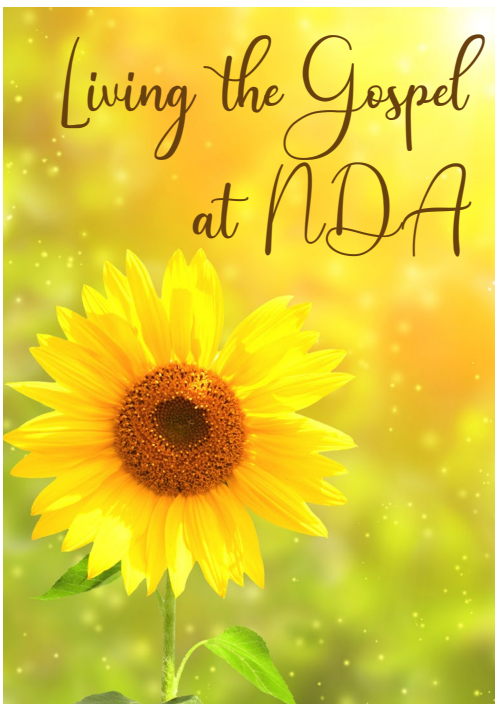
"My NDA education has had a very positive effect on my faith development. The new friendships I have made here have helped me grow spiritually. There are girls I can relate to who are in a similar spot on their faith journey. There are also girls who can help me grow closer to Christ by their example."

— Sophomore, Class of 2028

"NDA has helped me see faith not just as something I practice but as something I live through kindness, friendship, and reflection."

— Junior, Class of 2027

Through faith-filled friendships, NDA students remind us that Christ is present in the people who walk beside us every day.



Student Life



SILVER BELLS

SNOWFLAKES, SPARKLE, AND ALL THE HOLIDAY FEELS!

Silver Bells 2025: White Christmas is coming to the **Newport Car Barn** for our **Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores**—a night of fun, dancing, and Christmas cheer.

Grab your tickets now—sales end December 8!

[Tickets Link](#)



PURCHASE TICKETS NOW

FRESHMAN WINTER SEMI-FORMAL

On Saturday December 6, Notre Dame Academy's Drug Free Club will host the freshmen of Notre Dame and Covington Catholic for a semi-formal dance. The dance will run from 8:00 - 10:30 and students must arrive by 8:30 and will not be allowed to leave before 10:15 unless a handwritten note is turned into the office by Thursday Dec. 4. Tickets cost \$15.00 a person and can be purchased at this [link](#). All freshmen students have been given the link via email.

Last Friday all NDA Freshmen students attended a session during homeroom to learn specifics of the dance, as well as appropriate attire for the dance. Please help your daughter select a dress that will meet the dress code requirements - the students all received the power point link with specifics that you could look at together! Any questions can be directed to Mrs Maggard at maggarde@ndapandas.org.

PANDAS GIVING BACK

CANNED FOOD DRIVE BEGINS NOVEMBER 10

Our annual canned food drive will take place November 10-21. All donations will benefit St. Vincent dePaul's food pantry. Their most needed items are tomato products, fruit, beans, vegetables, tuna, chicken, and other canned meats, canned pasta, soups, cereal and other breakfast items, peanut butter and jelly.

Here are some of the incentives this year:

Sweatpants day: 3 cans or \$3 on 11/13 and 11/20

Out of uniform: 5 cans or \$5 on 11/18

11/21: 5 cans to enter raffle for Dance ticket

Different raffle for each grade

Freshman- formal

Sophomore- silver bells

Junior and senior- prom

Thanks for your support!



VETERANS' DAY

THE WHITE TABLE CEREMONY

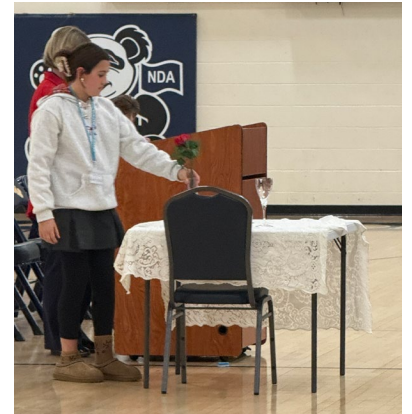
HONORING VETERANS WITH A NEW NDA TRADITION

Faith, gratitude, and respect filled the halls of Notre Dame Academy on Tuesday as students, faculty and staff gathered to honor the women and men who have served our country in the Armed Forces. As part of this year's Veterans Day observance, NDA introduced a meaningful new tradition — the White Table Ceremony — a solemn tribute to service members who are missing in action or held as prisoners of war.

Set with intention and reverence, the small table featured powerful symbols: a white cloth representing the purity of their motives in serving our nation, a single red rose symbolizing lives lost and loved ones waiting for their return, a lemon slice and salt recalling the bitterness of their fate and tears shed in their absence, an inverted glass showing they cannot toast with us, and an empty chair signifying their absence.

Students were invited to show their gratitude and school spirit by wearing red, white, and blue with their uniforms, filling the building with color and pride. Together, the NDA community reflected on the courage and sacrifice of those who defend our freedom — a poignant reminder of our mission to form women who lead with faith, compassion, and purpose.

This new Veterans Day tradition will continue each year as a symbol of remembrance and prayer for peace, ensuring that the sacrifices of our heroes are never forgotten.





LATIN PANDAS

ENJOYING THE FIRST SNOWFALL!

When the first snowflakes of the season began to fall Monday morning, Ms. Barnes' Latin I students couldn't resist a quick trip outside to celebrate. Our Pandas embraced the moment with laughter, snowflakes, and a few friendly snowball tosses behind the CLC. "I just appreciate the energy that freshmen have for this kind of thing and how excited they get," Ms. Barnes shared. "Good, clean fun!"



**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
PLEASE READ**

FACTS APPLICATION OPENS DECEMBER 15

UPDATES TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TIMELINE

The timeline for completing FACTS and Work Study applications for the 2026-27 school year is changing to better meet the needs of our NDA families. The FACTS application will open on December 15, and families may use their 2024 tax information when applying for financial assistance. The application deadline has also been moved up to February 28.

Please visit the Financial Assistance page on our website for the most up-to-date details and resources to help guide you through the process.

**VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!**

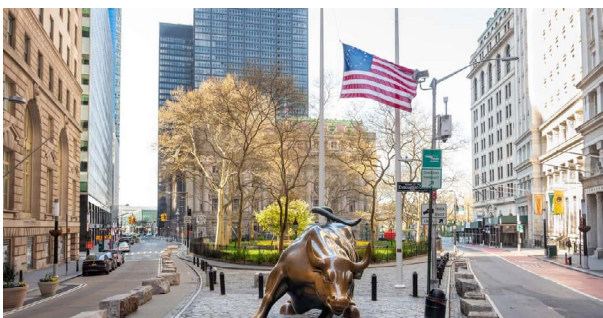
TIME TO VOTE

LET'S HONOR OUR ATHLETES

Time to vote, Pandas! Let's honor our student-athletes and show Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky the strength of NDA spirit. We are excited to bring back this proud tradition of celebrating our athletes whenever they are nominated for Athlete of the Week. This week, we have several standout performances to recognize:

- Notre Dame Academy Volleyball Team - The Pandas finished off the season with a 32-8 record and as the KHSAA state runners-up after a five-set battle with Assumption in the state finals.
- Peyton Quinn - She took third place in the 50-yard freestyle, fourth place in the 50-yard breaststroke and fifth place in the 100-yard freestyle at the Simon Kenton Sprint Meet.
- Teagan Kondick - She was named to the all-state tournament team after totaling 52 kills, 15 digs, two blocks and an ace in four matches.

Cast your vote [HERE](#) and help our Pandas rise to the top. Vote once every hour and from your phones. Let's go, NDA!



INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY

INVESTMENT CLUB TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY!

The Investment Club is thrilled to announce its first-ever trip to New York City, taking place March 12–15, 2026! This exciting experience will combine education and adventure as students explore the financial and cultural heart of the United States.

The draft itinerary includes:

- Tour of the Federal Reserve Bank
- Lesson on the Financial Crisis
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum tour
- Walking tour of Wall Street and the Financial District
- Visits to the Statue of Liberty, NBC Studios/Rockefeller Plaza, and the Empire State Building
- Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral

The estimated cost is \$1,200–\$1,300 per student, which covers airfare, hotel, and tours (meals not included).

Only 24 spots are available, open until November 25th to active members of the Investment Club on a first-come, first-served basis.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity—sign up [HERE](#) today!

Traveling Pandas!



ADVENTURE AWAITS!

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY IS HEADING TO SPAIN & PORTUGAL IN JUNE 2027!

Experience the history, art, and beauty of the Iberian Peninsula with your classmates and NDA faculty chaperones as you journey from Lisbon to Barcelona. Discover historic castles, stunning cathedrals, and vibrant plazas along the way, including the Royal Alcázar of Seville, Córdoba's Mezquita, Madrid's Royal Palace and Prado Museum, and Gaudí's iconic Barcelona landmarks, while enjoying local culture, cuisine, and an unforgettable Flamenco show. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to explore two amazing countries in one unforgettable trip!

Attendance at an info meeting isn't required — everyone's welcome! [Click here](#) to learn more and register. Any questions? Contact [Ms. Dooling](#) for more details.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, JUNE 2026!

MUSTARD SEED MISSION TRIP

Students are invited to join an exciting mission trip that combines service, learning, and personal growth. This is a chance to make a meaningful impact in a community while building lasting memories and friendships.

Informational Meeting: Coming soon! See Ms. Dooling for details.

We Need Your Input! Please fill out this [Google Form](#) if you haven't already. Your responses will help us determine whether the trip will be a Student Trip, Mother Daughter, or Father Daughter experience. Thank you!



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
Bambootique

STOCK UP ON HOLIDAY SPIRIT-WEAR **BAMBOOTIQUE SEASONAL HOURS AND WEEKDAY SCHEDULE**

The Bambootique will offer special holiday shopping hours on the following Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: November 8, November 15, November 22, December 6, December 13 and December 20.

The spirit shop is also open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. throughout the season.

Stop in to grab gifts, gear and Panda favorites while supplies last, or shop online [HERE](#).



DELICIOUS NEWS **LUNCH MENU**

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.

PLEASE NOTE!

REPORTING ABSENCES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

We have an attendance email for parents to call in a sick child or if a student is leaving early from school. Please use this email if your daughter is sick or needs to leave school early: attendance@ndapandas.org. Remember you can always call the school office with any questions 859-261-4300.

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 – Thursday, November 20, 2025 | 9-11:30 a.m.

Diocesan Curia, Covington – Thursday, November 20, 2025 | 6-8:30 p.m.

Additional sessions are scheduled monthly through November 2025.

For the full list of training dates and locations, visit www.virtuson-line.org.

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

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



VIRTUS[®]Online

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR PANDA ATHLETICS



SWIMMING:

Simon Kenton Sprint Meet

On Saturday, November 8, the AquaPandas kicked off the season with a 2nd place team finish at the SK Sprint Meet hosted at the Kenton County Aquatic Center (Scott HS). This was the first high school meet for many swimmers, and the results were outstanding!

Top 8 Individual Finishers:

Peyton Quinn (Sr): 3rd – 50 Free, 4th – 50 Breast, 5th – 100 Free

Savannah Bien (Jr): 7th – 50 Back

Tara Gibson (Jr): 3rd – 50 Breast, 6th – 100 Breast, 8th – 100 Free

Elsie Hanks (Jr): 4th – 100 Fly, 7th – 50 Fly

Marcy Franxman (So): 7th – 50 Free, 7th – 100 Free

Top 8 Relays:

200 Medley Relay: 4th – Franxman, Gibson, Hanks, Quinn; 7th – Bien, Nora Vonbokern (Jr), Kate Napier (Fr), Charlie Frank (Jr)

200 Free Relay: 4th – Gibson, Bien, Hanks, Quinn; 7th – Napier, Frank, Maclaine Hancock (Fr), Franxman

The team combined for 30 individual best times and 16 relay best splits—a fantastic way to begin the season. Next up is the Dixie Invitational this Saturday Nov. 15th at Scott High School - 11:00AM (Swim) and 2:00PM (Dive)

VOLLEYBALL:

On Friday and Saturday, the Volleyball Pandas competed in the State Tournament at George Rogers Clark in Winchester, KY! They beat the Bowling Green Purples and the North Oldham Mustangs to advance to the Championship Match.

They placed 2nd in the State and three players were named to the All Tournament Team: Audrey Dyas, Teagan Kondik, and Dara Jackson. The Volleyball Team graduates 4 impact players: Audrey Dyas, Gracie Portwood, Lizzy Larkins, and Katie Zwick!



PLEASE NOTE!

IMPORTANT INFO:

If you have an athlete (who chose to sell the cards) who has not turned in their athletic discount card money please send in the money this week!

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



RECOGNIZING HARD WORK

CELEBRATING OUR B.E.S.T. STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to our BEST Students for this past quarter. These students were voted on by their teachers and chosen because they work hard in their classes to prioritize learning:

Freshman: Brooke Sweeney

Sophomore: Hannah Dettmer

Juniors: Lizzy Fite

Seniors: Cleo Dozier

COLLEGE REP VISITS

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.



THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

DoCM OPEN HOUSE

Thomas More University's Department of Creative Media (Art, Communication, Music, and Theatre) would like to extend an invitation for our students to check out their Open House! If your college interests are design, communication, music, or theatre, this is your chance to sit in their studios, watch ceramic demonstrations, see displays of ongoing art work and talk with current students and faculty. See the attached flyer below.

When: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Thomas More University (Check in outside the Art Gallery – see attached map)

RSVP: [HERE](#)





VIEW YOUR SCORES

PSAT RESULTS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS

Our sophomores and juniors have received their PSAT (Preliminary SAT) scores through their Collegeboard account. If a student is having trouble accessing these scores, please let Mrs. Monohan (monohanc@ndapandas.org) know.



EXPLORING CAREER PATHS

NAVIGO SCHOLARS WINTER APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The NaviGo Scholars Program is currently accepting students for their Winter session. Consider applying for some mentorship/Career Programs (Health careers, Business/Tech/Manufacturing) using this link: <https://navigoprep.com/navigo-scholars/>



ATTENTION PARENTS

TERRACE METRICS UPDATE

On Monday we administered the Terrace Metrics Resiliency Assessment to all students, other than those opted out by their parents. We are now working with any absent students to have them complete the assessment and we plan to send the results out to parents later this week or early next week.

The Terrace Metrics system identifies any high priority students who may have many areas of "May Need Assistance" and those students will be checked on by a counselor and their parents will be reached out to individually. Feel free to reach out to School Counselor Mrs. Erin Maggard at maggarde@ndapandas.org if you have any questions.



ATTENTION PARENTS

QPR VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

What is QPR Training you might ask? Think of QPR as being like CPR, but for the mind! QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer. QPR will help you to recognize the warning signs and clues to indicate that a loved one might be thinking about suicide and then give you strategies for how to get that person to the help they need. While QPR is NOT a form of counseling or treatment, it is intended to offer hope through positive action.

Anyone who works with or is around teenagers would be a great candidate for QPR training because now more than ever, knowing the basics of suicide prevention and how to have the conversation about it can help those struggling with isolation and fear. 1N5 is a local organization that provides virtual QPR sessions that last an hour and a half. To see their schedule and sign up to attend a session please use the [link found here](#).



ATTENTION 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH GRADE STUDENTS GSE SUMMER START UP PROGRAM

Interested in the Governor's School for Entrepreneurship's 2026 "Summer Startup Program?" Mrs. Slone will hold an information session for students after school on November 20 in Room 112 to help applicants understand the application process and timeline.



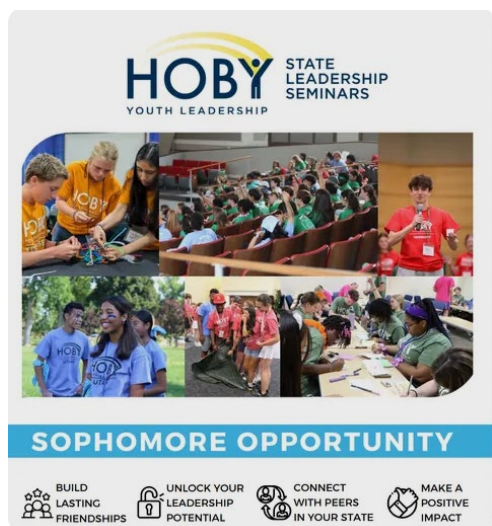
STEP INTO YOUR FUTURE

APPLICATIONS FOR GSP, GSA AND GSE ARE NOW OPEN!

Students have received multiple communications about these programs over the last several weeks and we highly encourage them to apply! Please see each program's official website for details, tips and applications.

All Juniors applying for GSP need to email Mrs. Slone at slonem@ndapandas.org.

Please visit [this link](#) for a quick reference chart describing each program and who is eligible to apply.



CALLING ALL FUTURE LEADERS

APPLY FOR THE 2026 HOBY SUMMER LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Nominations are open for the Hugh O'Brian Youth Summer Leadership Seminar. This 4 day overnight event occurs on a college campus in the Summer of 2026 though dates and location in KY are TBD. This is a leadership and service focused program and wonderful opportunity for students to meet other leadership and service focused peers. You can find out more here at <https://www.hobykentucky.org/>

Interested students should complete the [google form here](#) if interested in attending the 2026 HOBY Summer Seminar. Two students will be chosen from applicants to represent NDA. This form will close on 11/15/25.

Advancing the Mission

Alumnae Rosary



GATHERING IN FAITH AND COMMUNITY ALUMNAE ROSARY AT NDA

On Thursday, November 20, at 9:30 a.m., Notre Dame Academy will host our monthly Alumnae Rosary in the Mary, Mother of the World Chapel. This special tradition invites alumnae, parents, and friends to pause in the midst of busy days to pray and reflect together as one school family.

To make this meaningful tradition accessible to more alumnae and our NDA community, we will also offer a special Evening Alumnae Rosary on Thursday, November 20, at 6:30 p.m. We hope this additional time will allow more members of our NDA community to join in prayer and fellowship. As we pray the rosary in Thanksgiving for the blessings we have received, we will be collecting canned goods to support those in our community who are in need of our help.

All are welcome!

Upcoming rosary dates: December 18 and January 15 — both at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY ANNUAL FUND



Years of More

THE ANNUAL FUND

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE AT NDA

Every gift, every family, every Panda matters.

At Notre Dame Academy, faith, learning, and joy come together to create something extraordinary — but it doesn't happen by tuition alone. Tuition covers only about 80 percent of the true cost of an NDA education. The remaining 20 percent depends on the generosity of families, alumnae, and friends whose gifts sustain the mission and spirit of NDA.

That's where the Annual Fund comes in. This yearly campaign bridges the gap, supporting the heart of who we are — our faith formation, our exceptional teachers, and the opportunities that empower young women to make a difference in the world.

Every single gift matters. In fact, most Annual Fund donations are under \$250, yet together they have a transformational impact on our students and school community. Your support directly strengthens the experience of every Panda — from the classroom to the chapel, from the stage to the athletic field.

When you give to the Annual Fund, you help keep NDA vibrant, faith-filled, and forward-looking — a place where young women grow in confidence, compassion, and purpose.

**MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY AND
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE
HERE**



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

November 10 - 21	Canned Food Drive
November 13	3 Cans or \$3 = Sweatpants Day
November 14	Mid-Quarter
November 16	Mother/Daughter
November 17	Fall Athletic Signing
November 20	Alumnae Rosary
November 26-28	No School - Thanksgiving Break
December 5	In School Christmas Concert
December 6	Freshman Semi-Formal Dance
December 7	Christmas Band Concert
December 8	No School - Immaculate Conception
December 10	Christmas Choral Concert with Dance Pandas
December 13	HSPT at NDA
	Silver Bells
December 17-19	Exams
December 18	Alumnae Rosary
December 19	End of Semester
December 22 - January 2	No School - Christmas Break
January 5	Return to Classes