



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

November 20, 2024

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am continually inspired by the incredible spirit and dedication of our Notre Dame Academy community. This weekend's Light the Night for NDA perfectly exemplified that spirit. The evening was a beautiful celebration of the transformative power of Catholic education and our mission in action. From the joy of fellowship to the overwhelming generosity of our supporters, the event was a resounding success and a truly memorable experience. Your kindness and enthusiasm fuel our mission and light the way for NDA's bright future.

Our Canned Food Drive is wrapping up soon, and we are deeply grateful for your support of this meaningful initiative. Since 2010, our students have passionately collected over 140,000 canned food items to help those in need. Watching them embrace the call to serve as leaders in the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame is truly inspiring.

As you know, we are in the midst of a strategic planning process at NDA. Last night, we hosted the first round of discussions with many of our community members and the insights shared were invaluable. The next round of discussions will take place tomorrow afternoon. If you would like to participate, please contact Wendy Arnold, Administrative Assistant to the President, at arnoldw@ndapandas.org.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we look forward to coming together as a school community for our Thanksgiving Prayer Service on Monday, November 25. This cherished tradition offers us a special opportunity to reflect on the many blessings in our lives. We wish you and your families a safe and joyful Thanksgiving filled with gratitude, love, and quality time together. Please know how thankful we are for the trust you place in us to educate and nurture your daughters. Please note: There will not be a Panda Press Weekly next week.

Thank you for your continued support of Notre Dame Academy. Together, we are fostering an environment where young women grow, serve, and shine.

Happy Thanksgiving!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



Have a great day and make good choices!

ADVANCING THE MISSION

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR NDA!

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who supported this year's Light the Night for NDA—what an incredible evening! This sold-out celebration showcased the transformative power of Catholic education at Notre Dame Academy. From the fun and fellowship to the overwhelming generosity and support for our mission, the night was truly unforgettable. Your enthusiasm and kindness made this event a tremendous success, and we are deeply grateful to our amazing NDA community. Together, we're lighting the way for NDA's bright future!



CAMPUS MINISTRY



GREAT WAY TO START THE DAY

JOIN US FOR MORNING ROSARY

Start your day with prayer. All are welcome to join us in the chapel tomorrow morning at 7:45 to pray a decade of the Rosary.



CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST

UPCOMING MASSES IN OUR CHAPEL

We invite you to join us for Mass on Friday, November 22, at 7:20 a.m. in our *Mary, Mother of the World* Chapel. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together in faith and prayer as a community. All are welcome!



FAITH FORMATION

PRAY FOR OUR RCIA CANDIDATES

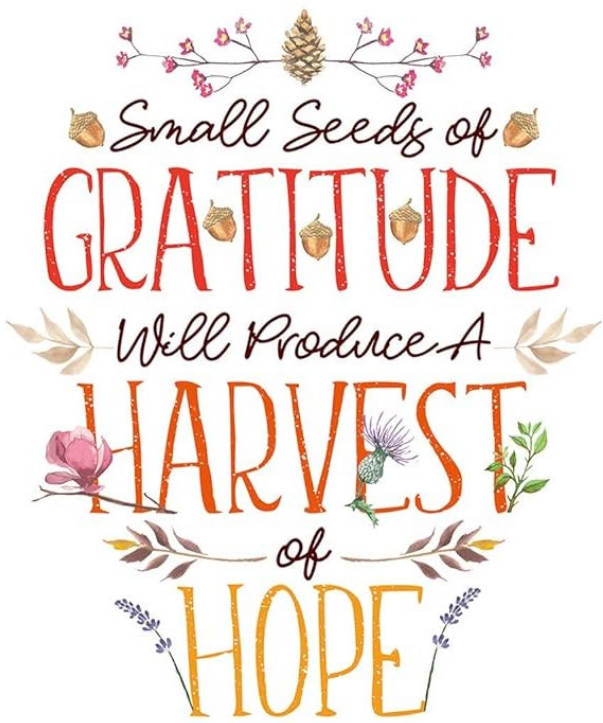
We are blessed to have four members of our Notre Dame Academy faith community journeying through the RCIA program. Please keep them in your prayers as they deepen their faith and prepare to enter into full communion with the Church.



HOLIDAY SEASON

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The holiday season brings many opportunities to give back and support our community. Be sure to check out the upcoming [service opportunities](#) shared with our Campus Ministry Office. This is a wonderful time to lend a helping hand and make a difference during this season of giving. For more details, reach out to Campus Ministry and see how you can get involved!



CELEBRATING GRATITUDE

THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE & SLIDE SHOW

On Monday, November 25, we will be celebrating our annual Thanksgiving prayer service together as a school. This year we will be doing our thanksgiving, Thankful Slide Show, that will be shown at the service. Students, if you would like to be able to participate and have the people or things you are grateful for be shown, please follow these requirements.

- Send all pictures to Camryn Peery (peeryc26@ndapandas.org) and Erin Piatt (Piatte26@ndapandas.org)
- Send in by 3:00 p.m., Thursday, November 21 to ensure they will be included
- Have the title of your email be "Thanksgiving Slide Show Photos"
- Know that there will only be one slide per person
- Maximum of 5 pictures submitted per person
- Know that if we find a photo to not meet school standards we will not put it on your slide



Student Life



COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The NDA community wishes all of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving full of gratitude, family time, love and delicious food. Please know how grateful we are that you entrusted the care of your daughters to us. We are very blessed! We hope that you enjoy some quality family time during our days off on November 27 - 29.

VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!

TIME TO VOTE! LET'S HONOR OUR ATHLETES

Please be sure to vote for our Athletes of the Week. You can vote [here!](#) Please be sure to vote from your phones and vote once every hour.

- Liv Wallace – She won the 500-yard freestyle (5:26.21), took second in the 50-yard freestyle (26.48) and helped the 400-yard freestyle relay to a win at the Flying Turkey Invitational.

Thank you for helping to honor our athletes!!



DANCE ALERT MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

The Freshmen Semi-Formal Dance (put on by our Drug Free Club) will be held on Saturday, December 7 from 8-11 p.m. at NDA. This dance is exclusively for freshmen and their guests. It is offered to both NDA and CCH students, however freshmen girls can bring someone from another school as their guest if they wish (the guest must also be a freshmen). Please see [this link](#) for purchasing tickets; it will be available until 11:59 pm on Thursday December 5th.

Also included is [the slideshow](#) that was presented to students earlier this month which provides further details and dress code information. The annual Silver Bells Dance will be held on Saturday, December 14 from 8-11 p.m. at the Newport Car Barn. The theme for this dance is "Christmas in NYC." Details about both dances and the dress code requirements were shared with students on Monday. Parents, be sure to talk to your daughter about the acceptable dance attire. An email to parents and guardians will be sent out with regard to the specifics that were shared with the students about the dances. Please watch for that email that will also include the link to purchase tickets.



CRITICAL THINKING

EXERCISE IN SAFETY!

On Friday December 13, our students will engage in a critical thinking exercise centered around the Run, Hide, Fight protocols. The students will be given hypothetical scenarios and situations that could occur and impact the safety of our school. With groups, the girls will have to determine how to respond to these situations to uphold the safety of themselves and others. The Run, Hide, Fight protocol is similar to the ALICE protocol that students are most likely are familiar with it from grade school. Sadly, it is crucial that our girls are prepared for various situations and this activity is a great exercise in doing so.

NDA PRESENTS

CAN THE CRU & BEAT THE BREDS

PROCEEDS GO TO SAINT
VINCENT DE PAUL



WHAT WE NEED?

PEANUT BUTTER
CANNED VEGETABLES (PEAS, CORN, MIXED VEGGIES,
GREEN BEANS, CARROTS)
CANNED FRUITS
CANNED BEANS
CEREAL AND OTHER BREAKFAST ITEMS LIKE POP-
TARTS, OATMEAL, GRANOLA BARS
SOUP
SIDES LIKE RICE-A-RONI, NOODLES, KNORR SIDES,
ETC.
MAC AND CHEESE
INSTANT/CANNED POTATOES
CANNED TOMATO SAUCE, PASTE, DICED TOMATOES
PASTA AND PASTA SAUCE
CANNED PASTA (RAVIOLI, SPAGHETTI RINGS, ETC)
CANNED MEATS SUCH AS TUNA, CHICKEN, CHILI,
SLOPPY JOE, ETC.

Nov. 11th-22nd

DOUBLE COMPETITION THIS YEAR CAN THE CRU AND BEAT THE BREDS

For the annual Canned Food Drive, we will be competing against both St. Henry and Newport Central Catholic. We will calculate the average number of cans turned in per student to determine the winning school. The losing school will have a consequence such as doing a cheer at a basketball game hosted by the winning team, singing the winning team's school song, etc. The drive will begin on November 11 and run until November 22. Our Family Leaders and Student Council will work collaboratively to run this event and it will also be used as a family competition as well. See the flyer for more details, especially the incentives that will be offered.



ATTENTION JUNIOR AND SENIOR PARENTS

AFTER PROM - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in helping plan and supervise After Prom this year, please reach out to Lisa Timmerding at timmerdingl@ndapandas.org. The After Prom has traditionally been held from 11:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. at NKU in their Health Center. In order for this event to be a success, we will need many parent volunteers. Please reach out to Mrs. Timmerding if you are interested. Thank you in advance for your help!

CULTIVATING A GROWTH MINDSET

STUDENTS EMBRACE STRATEGIES FOR PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC GROWTH

Students chose from the following growth mindset strategies: Embracing Challenge, Seeking Feedback, A love of Learning, Celebrating others Success, Embrace the word “yet”, Alter your Attitude, Reflect, Set SMART goals, Foster Grit, Make space for Failure, Practice Mindfulness & Gratitude.

Winners are (in order):

Junior, Madison Kruer

Freshman, Lainey Moffitt

Sophomore, Annabelle Ficke

Sophomore, Lilli Daniels

Freshman, Mia Summe

Freshman, Taylor Brown





#ALUMNAETREASURES
#NOSTALGIAINEVERYDESK



#ALUMNAETREASURES
#NDAPANDAS

OWN A PIECE OF NDA HISTORY! VINTAGE SCHOOL DESKS AND ATHLETIC UNIFORM SALE

We are thrilled to share a rare opportunity to own a piece of NDA's history. More than 60 years ago, when NDA moved from 5th Street to Hilton Drive, new desks filled the classrooms of the new building. The time has come to upgrade the learning spaces to the 21st century. We are offering some of the desks from Hilton Drive that have served generations of students, for sale at a special price of \$19.64 and proceeds will benefit NDA! *Colors available may vary from photo.

Our Pandas Athletic Uniform Sale features gently used uniform pieces from past seasons - each one is a nostalgic piece of NDA's storied sports history. Whether you're a current student, an alumna, or a fan of NDA's athletic tradition, this sale is your chance to own a piece of our school's legacy. NDA athletic items will be available for \$5 each and the proceeds will benefit NDA. *The photo depicts only a small variety of items that will be available.

DATES & TIMES:

Friday, November 22 from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, November 23 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

LOCATION: NDA Gym

PAYMENT: Cash, checks, Venmo and credit cards will be accepted.



START YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT NDA's BAMBOOTIQUE

Order a Santa or s'more kit by 12/05/24 and St. Nick will deliver it to your student, faculty or a staff member! Please add the name of the person in the note area of your order. Shop online [HERE](#).

Are you looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Check out our new lineup of Panda gear, hand-selected by a group of our students. Start your holiday shopping at NDA's Bambootique! From festive goodies to comfy sweatpants, we have it all! Come check out all we all have to offer, or shop online [HERE](#).

The Bambootique holiday hours are Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 1:00 p.m. The shop will be open on the following Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m: November 23 and December 7, 14, and 21.

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.



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](#).



HIT THE SLOPES WITH NDA'S SKI CLUB

DISCOUNTED PNS PASSES AVAILABLE THROUGH DECEMBER 1

[Purchase a PNS](#) pass today! Pricing is 20% off through December 1st so don't wait to purchase your pass and miss out on the discount. You don't have to be an NDA student to take advantage of this discount, families and friends are welcome to purchase passes using our club login.

Username: notredame

Password: panda



NDA's Ski Club will be skiing as a group at Perfect North on January 9, 23, 30 and February 6 (weather dependent). Please note we are not skiing as a group on January 16 as those going on the Colorado Ski Trip will be flying to Denver that day.

If you need a ride from NDA to PNS (and back to NDA), [here](#) is the form to purchase a bus pass. We will depart from school at 3:15 p.m. and return to school by 8:30 p.m.. Email Ms. Dooling at doolingm@ndapandas.org with any questions.

FINE ARTS



NKU HONOR CHOIR NEWS

PANDA TONES SHINE AT TRI-STATE HONOR CHOIR

Six members of the NDA Panda Tones participated in a Tri-State Honor Choir workshop and concert at Northern Kentucky University. At this workshop, the girls worked with choral groups from other high schools, including Covington Catholic, Holy Cross, and many others; they performed with a group of over 100 other high school chorus students; expanded their choral repertoire with difficult college-level pieces; and they performed with the prestigious Chamber Choir from Northern Kentucky University under the direction of the Director of Choral Studies, Mrs. Katie Barton.

Pictures include: 1) the Tri-State Honor Choir on the stage at Greaves Concert Hall at Northern Kentucky University.

2) the Notre Dame Academy students pictured are: (from L to R) Morgan Russell, Sofia Durstock, Melissa Geiman, Allison Dilbert, Laila Janah, & Maria Stepp.



IT'S SHOWTIME

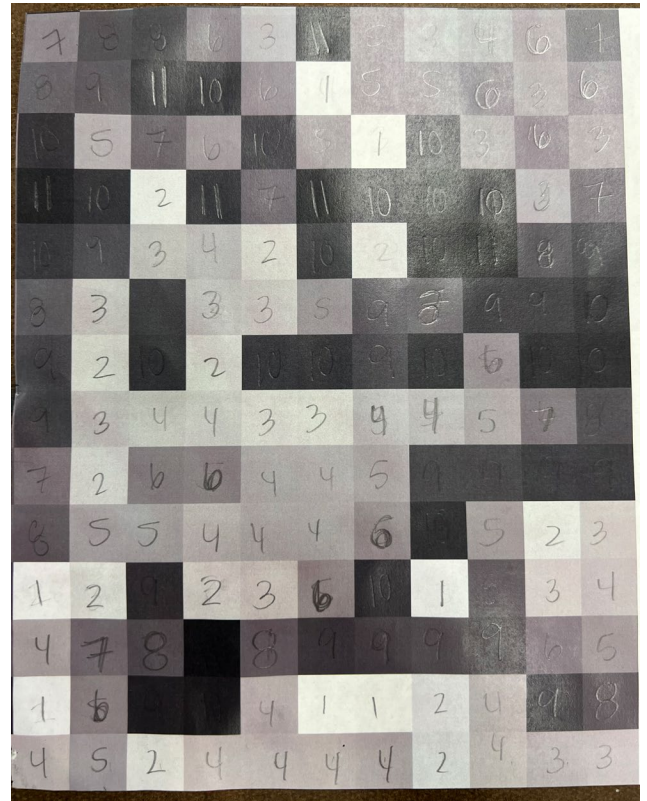
AUDITIONS & CREW SIGN-UPS FOR MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Exciting news! Auditions and crew sign-ups for Matilda the Musical are now open. Don't miss your chance to be part of this amazing production. Find all the details [HERE](#).

ART IN PROGRESS: MONOCHROMATIC PIXEL PORTRAITS

STUDENTS EXPLORE VALUE, CONTRAST, AND BRUSHWORK THROUGH INNOVATIVE SELF-PORTRAITS

Art 1 students working in progress on their monochromatic pixel self portraits. They are developing an understanding of value and contrast, working with acrylic for the first time and proper brush work. Students utilized the photo editing program Pixlr Editor in order to create an 11x14 aspect ing image from a distance reads as a portrait. They will use this as a launching off project for their upcoming topographic word art painting. Go Pandas!



BAMBINELLI AND CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING

JOIN BISHOP IFFERT FOR A SPECIAL ADVENT TRADITION WITH MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP, AND BLESSINGS!

Bishop John Iffert invites you and your family and friends to attend the third annual Bambinelli and Christmas Tree Blessing on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Park (Diocesan Curia). Come see the blessing and lighting of the diocesan Christmas tree, listen to live parish and school choirs, enjoy homemade cookies, and hot cocoa, and hear a Nativity story. Bring the Baby Jesus figure from your home Nativity to receive a special blessing from Bishop Iffert and be part of a Catholic Advent tradition! No RSVP required. All are welcome!



Bambinelli Blessing AND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 5:30–7 P.M.

ST. MARY'S PARK, CATHEDRAL SQUARE

**BRING THE BABY JESUS FROM YOUR NATIVITY
FOR A BLESSING FROM BISHOP IFFERT.**

COME TOGETHER FOR AN EVENING OF
CELEBRATION, ADVENT AND HEART.

COOKIES, SANDWICHES
AND HOT CHOCOLATE PROVIDED.

LIVE MUSIC BY
THE ST. CECILIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ADULT CHOIR
AND THE ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

AQUA PANDAS WIN FLYING TURKEY INVITATIONAL 4TH YEAR IN A ROW!



WAY TO GO!

FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Our Swim Team is off to a fast start picking up a win this past weekend! The Aqua PaNDAs competed in the Flying Turkey Invitational yesterday at Keating Natatorium and won for the 4th straight year! The Pandas not only took home the win but several members had personal best times. Next up, the Pandas will travel to Chattanooga later this week to compete in the McCallie Invitational for both our swim team and our Dive team! It will be divings first event of the year!

Bowling is off to a good start too! This past Saturday the team finished in the semi-finals, but Sophomore Haley Pelstring bowled to her second all tournament team this season. Bowling a 159 and 198 to second!! Great bowling! They have a match against St. Henry this Thursday at Strikes and Spares in Erlanger and the Holy Cross tournament on Saturday.

Basketball had a great scrimmage against Anderson County this past Saturday. They will scrimmage Bethlehem this coming Saturday as we approach the first game of the season December 2nd! Looking forward to this coming season!

Archery is in full swing with their first tournament fast approaching! The NDA Invitational is coming up Dec. 6th and 7th. We are excited to watch our talented archer competing soon!

Volleyball - Congratulations to NDA Volleyball junior Audrey Dyas who was announced an AVCA All-American! This is a huge accomplishment and we are so proud of you!

OWN A PIECE OF NDA HISTORY!

Vintage desks and athletic uniforms are on sale! Desks are \$19.64, and athletic items are \$5 each, with all proceeds benefiting NDA.

Sale Dates:

Friday, November 22: 3–4 p.m.

Saturday, November 23: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Location: NDA Gym

Payment accepted via cash, checks, Venmo, and credit cards. Don't miss this chance!

See more information and photos on page 8.



COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



HOW TO HELP

HOLIDAY COLLEGE STRESS

While the end of high school and the anticipation of what comes next is often exciting for our seniors and their families, some students dread the constant questioning about their plans during holiday events, particularly if they are unsure. Please [read this article](#) for tips to help your senior navigate the holidays with less stress.

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.



IMPORTANT DEADLINE

COMPLETED GSP APPLICATIONS DUE 11/25/24 BY 3:15 PM

Please note that the deadline to submit GSP applications for the school level selection process is quickly approaching! Our Junior applicants have been working hard and this week they will also be able to stop during lunch on Thursday 11/21 and Friday 11/22 to ask for any final assistance. Submitted applications will be evaluated anonymously according to the GSP rubric and those selected to move forward to the Diocesan selection level will be notified before Christmas break. Best of luck to all applicants!

STAY INFORMED WITH THE PPC

JOIN THE NDA PANDA PARENT CLUB TO SUPPORT AND CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY



The Notre Dame Academy Panda Parent Club (PPC) is an opportunity for parents, organized by the Student Services Department, to learn more about topics and information to support families in navigating pressures and concerns our students face daily. It is designed to help enhance communication between parents and the Student Services Department and to occasionally coordinate volunteering opportunities and community events to provide support for the school's educational goals. Meetings will be bi-monthly and information regarding presenters and topics can be found here.

Upcoming meetings:

TOMORROW - Thursday, November 21, 2024 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Alumnae Hall -

Debbie Zegarra from Ethan's Purpose will be presenting on suicide prevention and parents will be trained in QPR (think CPR but for mental health emergencies). See the flyer to the left.

*** PLEASE NOTE: These meetings are for parents only. Students will get this information via Drug Free Club and other education initiatives through DFC throughout the year.**

We want to hear more from you about topics you, as a parent, would be interested in learning more about. Please complete the brief survey [HERE](#) to help us better support you!

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

**QUESTION
PERSUADE
REFER**

Three steps anyone can learn to save a life!

OBJECTIVE

QPR is an evidenced-based training providing practical and proven suicide prevention strategies for work, school, at home and in your community. Upon request, our QPR trained associates will schedule a presentation to provide certified training at your school or work-place.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Through lecture, slide presentations and videos, you will learn:

- suicide prevention data and needs;
- how to recognize the warning signs for someone at risk for suicide;
- to increase knowledge of intervention skills and how to question a person about suicidal thoughts;
- referral resources and services
- how to persuade someone to get help and how to refer the person for help;
- common myths of suicide.

BENEFITS

- Reduce suicide;
- Offer HOPE to someone in crisis;
- Early recognition of warning signs to avoid a crisis situation;
- Help save a life!
- Certification

SUICIDE AT A GLANCE

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States;
Over 49,000 people died by suicide in 2022;

1 death in every 11 minutes;
13.2 million people seriously thought about suicide;
3.8 million made a plan for suicide;
1.6 million attempted suicide.

**988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE**

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT GOOD MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION!

To schedule a training presentation contact patty@ethanspurpose.org

THE NDA GRATITUDE TREE





SHARING OUR Community News

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

- St. Tim's Mission Trip
- Hero Night

Important dates

November 21	Rosary in Chapel 7:45 Dress down day for \$5 or 5 cans Panda Parent Club Speaker - Suicide Prevention - Alumnae Hall
November 22	Mother /Daughter Event at NDA
November 27	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day
November 28-29	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
December 1	Junior Advent Retreat - Alumnae Hall
December 6	In School Band and Choral Christmas Concert - Gym
December 7	Freshman Semi-Formal Dance - Auditorium/Cafeteria
December 8	Christmas Band Concert - Theatre/Alumnae Hall
December 9	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass
December 11	Winter Choir/Dance Concert at 6:30 p.m.
December 13	Cookies with Santa Alumnae Event
December 14	HSPT Silver Bells Dance
December 17	Alumnae Welcome Back Night - Alumnae Hall
December 23	NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break begins
January 6	School Resumes
January 20	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day