



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

*Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World*

# Panda Press Weekly

December 3, 2025

THE *nda* LIFE

## Dear Panda Families,

As we enter the first week of Advent, our halls are filled with the hopeful anticipation that defines this season. Each day, our students remind us through their joy, their generosity and their quiet acts of kindness what it truly means to prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ.

Last week, our community came together in gratitude at our Thanksgiving Prayer Service, where we reflected on the ways God is working in and through our students. The announcement of our Canned Food Drive totals was a beautiful example of this. Collecting 15,013 items this year, and an extraordinary 166,625 over the past sixteen years, shows the power of servant leadership when rooted in intention and love. Our students continue to live the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame in real and meaningful ways.

As we continue through Advent, I invite each family to find a moment to pause amid the busyness, much like we encourage our students to do each morning through our Jesse Tree reflections. Advent is a season that calls us to be still, to listen and to open our hearts more fully to Christ. In these simple moments of quiet, His presence is often most deeply felt.

Thank you for the many ways you support your daughters and our school community during this special time of year. Please know of my prayers for you as we continue our Advent journey together.

Walk in Faith,

*Mrs. Lisa Timmerding*

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



NOVEMBER 2025

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

If you missed the October edition of the President's Perspective that was emailed last week, you can find it here:

[President's Perspective](#)

Walk in Faith!

# FAITH IN ACTION



## NEW TRADITION

### ADVENT

An Advent tradition within the Catholic Church is called a Jesse Tree. Each day a new ornament is added to the tree that represents an old testament scripture reading that leads up to the Birth of Christ. During Advent, our morning prayers will be taken from the Jesse Tree scriptures. New ornaments will be added to the Jesse Tree in the Panda Display case at the beginning of each week.



## GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

### UPCOMING LITURGIES

We will celebrate Mass on Friday, December 5 and Tuesday, December 9 at 7:20 a.m. in the chapel.

We will pray a decade of the rosary at 7:45 a.m. in the chapel on Thursday, December 4.

All students will have the opportunity to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during their religion class over the next 2 weeks. We are grateful for the many priests who are giving of their time to make sure this opportunity is available to all who would like to participate.



## MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

### THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On Monday, December 8 the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a major Roman Catholic solemnity that honors the belief that the Virgin Mary, from the very first moment of her own conception, was preserved by God's grace from all stain of original sin. On this day, we should attend mass, as it is a holy day of obligation, and reflect on Mary's "Yes" to God's plan and the call to remain free from sin and welcome Christ into our own hearts.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA

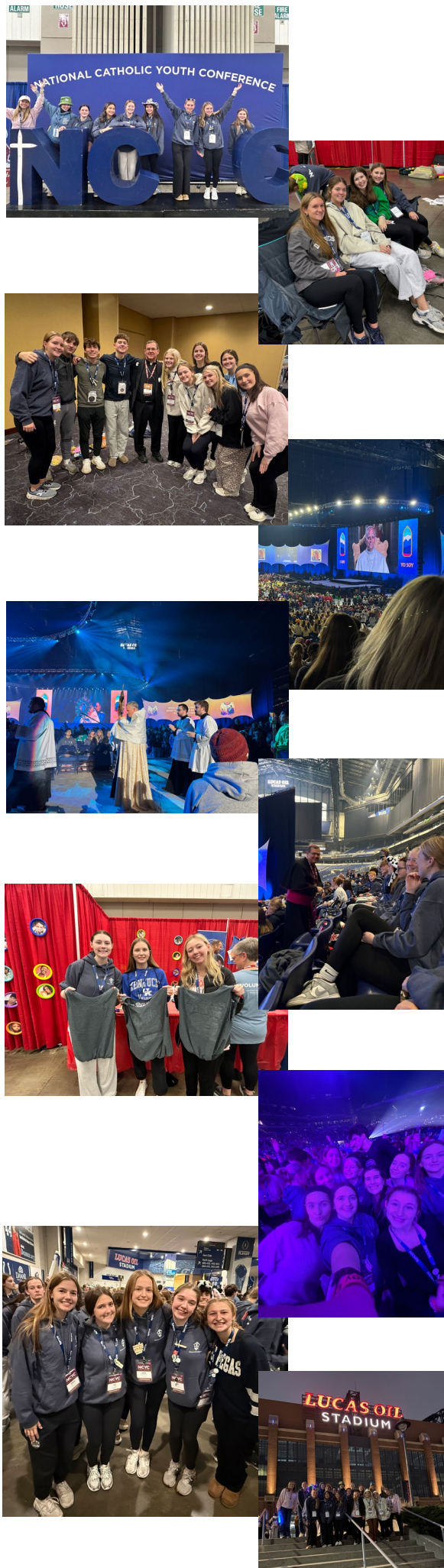


## PREPARING FOR THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

### ST. ROSE OF LIMA FAMILY MASS

On Monday, the St. Rose of Lima Family joined together in the chapel to celebrate mass during homeroom. This was a great way to kick off the Advent Season asking God to be with us as we prepare for the birth of Christ.





## REFLECTIONS FROM NCYC:

# A PANDA'S FAITH JOURNEY

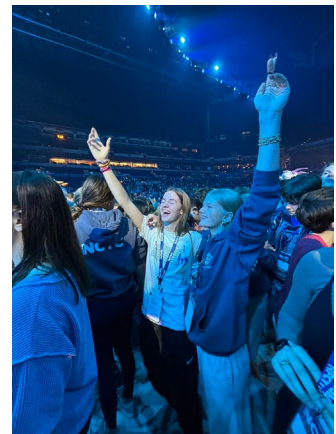
Earlier this month, 46 of our Pandas joined more than 400 pilgrims from the Diocese of Covington for the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. NCYC is always a powerful opportunity for young people to encounter Christ, strengthen their faith, and connect with Catholic teens from across the country.

As our students prayed, worshiped, learned, and even heard messages of encouragement from Pope Leo, they represented NDA with joy, leadership, and an openness to the Holy Spirit. One of our students, Addie Lawrie, shared this beautiful reflection on her experience and how her time at NDA shapes her faith each day.

## Seeing My NDA Faith Formation in Action at NCYC

By Addie Lawrie

*Heading into NCYC this year I had expectations to strengthen my faith, learn more about my Catholic identity, and get closer to finding my calling. Throughout the weekend I was exposed to many opportunities to connect with God. During my time on retreat I noticed that I grow, and continue to grow, in my faith more than I realize through my education at Notre Dame Academy everyday.*



*During one of the breakout sessions I attended, the speakers put a slide up on the screen that listed the virtues vs. vices and I instantly was brought back to religion class. We had just learned about all the virtues and vices along with ways we live out moral excellence to live a good Catholic life. I felt really engaged in this session and when they were explaining ways we can stay loyal to our Lord, I knew exactly what they were talking about. I felt everything but lost.*

*I really enjoyed my experience at NCYC this past weekend and I recommend it to EVERYONE. I mean, I don't think anything can beat being on face time with Pope Leo and hearing his guidance! I am also very grateful for my education at Notre Dame Academy because I get the opportunity to grow in my faith during every class, every lesson, and be in the presence of people that are amazing influences in the Catholic faith. The commitment that Notre Dame Academy has to teaching the Catholic faith has an impact on many lives.*

# Student Life



**TOY DRIVE**  
*Dec. 8th-12th*

FAMILY AGE GROUP	CHEAP ALTERNATIVES
Purple: 0-3	If you cannot afford to get a "good" toy, Walmart, dollar general, etc. all have cheap toys that you can get. Don't feel like you need to get the biggest or best toy. A simple small stuffed animal or Barbie will be fine.
Green: 4-6	
Pink: 7-10	
Blue: 11-16	

**REWARDS**

We will add up all the family points from the school year and whoever has the most points, gets to wear NO uniforms the last day of exams! We will also have gift card raffle, bambootique raffle, and more!

**DONATE TODAY!**

## FBLA TOY DRIVE

Notre Dame Academy's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) will be hosting a toy drive for BeConcerned this christmas during the week of December 8-12!

This is our first project since reviving our club. We are so blessed to have this opportunity! We wanted to spread the word to all NDA Pandas (past and present) so that we can all spread joy to all the children in need.

If you'd like to send toys or give money, please bring them to the front office or with your daughter. Our age groups are 0-3, 4-6, 7-10, and 11-16. Information about incentives are in the graphic to the left.

Please keep these children and families in your prayers this holiday season. We appreciate all your help, Thank you!

- Lizzy Fite  
Class of 2027  
FBLA president



**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](#)





## ROMAN FOOD DAY RETURNS!

# LATIN STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE THIRD ANNUAL ROMAN FOOD DAY

On Monday, dual credit Latin students celebrated the Latin program's 3rd annual Roman food day. This student-led tradition started in a Latin 3 class three years ago with an interest in learning more about Roman food and cooking, inspired by the Roman gourmet Apicius, whose extensive cookbook of recipes in Latin still survives. It has continued to be a wonderful way to experience Roman eating first-hand and lead into the Thanksgiving holiday together.

Each year, students research and choose an authentic Roman recipe to recreate. This year's menu featured Pompeian style pizza, hand-pressed cheese, honey sesame cookies, panis focacius (Roman flatbread, the ancient ancestor of modern-day focaccia), a few different kinds and styles of honey cake, and Roman cheese fritters. The students outdid themselves with the creativity, care, and effort into their preparation of these dishes! It was a happy Friendsgiving...Roman-style!



## SHOP FOR YOUR PANDA!

# HOLIDAY HOURS AT THE BAMBOOTIQUE

The Bambootique is open for special holiday shopping hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following Saturdays: December 6, December 13 and December 20.

Stop by to pick up your favorite NDA spirit wear and holiday gifts for the Pandas in your life or shop online [HERE](#).



## THE KENDRA SCOTT COLLECTION

# NEW CLASS RING OPTIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH HERFF JONES

Herff Jones is expanding its class ring offerings for Notre Dame Academy students, featuring new styles and designs for the Class of 2028. Students and families interested in exploring these options can view the Kendra Scott class ring collection here: [Kendra Scott Collection Video](#) Full ordering details, pricing and additional ring styles can be found on the Herff Jones website [HERE](#).



## IMPORTANT UPDATE

# YEARBOOK NEWS

NDA's 2025 yearbook, "Let 'Em Know", should arrive shortly after the holidays. If you did not order a copy and would like one, we order some extra copies. If you WANT TO want to check if you ordered, you can email [glynnr@ndapandas.org](mailto:glynnr@ndapandas.org)! And check back for purchase info on our 2026 book, "From the Top."





## BRINGING MARINE BIOLOGY TO LIFE EXPLORING OCEAN LIFE AT THE NEWPORT AQUARIUM

Students in Mr. Bill Stamm's Marine Biology class recently explored the Newport Aquarium, bringing their classroom learning to life through hands-on observation and discovery. The trip offered students the chance to study marine habitats, animal behavior and aquatic ecosystems up close.

Throughout the day, students observed a wide range of species — from sharks and stingrays to coral reef fish and freshwater creatures — deepening their understanding of biodiversity and conservation. They also had opportunities to ask questions, and connect what they've learned in class to real-world marine science.



# St. Agnes

## Advent Prayer Service of Lessons and Carols

**featuring:** Pause, Prepare, Praise

**Notre Dame Pandatones**

**Covington Catholic Chamber Choir**

**St. Agnes Music Ministry**

**December 14**

**2:00 PM**

1680 Dixie Highway, Fort Wright, KY

**Admission is free!**

For More Information call the Parish Office at 859-431-1802

## COME HEAR OUR PANDATONES! ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

St. Agnes Parish invites our community to an Advent Prayer Service of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 14 at 2 p.m. at 1680 Dixie Highway, Fort Wright. This beautiful service is a time to pause, prepare and praise as we deepen our anticipation of Christ's birth.

The event will feature music from the Notre Dame Pandatones, the Covington Catholic Chamber Choir and the St. Agnes Music Ministry. Admission is free, and all are welcome to join in prayer and song.





## A RECORD OF GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY PANDAS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This year's Canned Food Drive came to an amazing close following our Thanksgiving Prayer Service, where we announced that our NDA community collected 15,013 canned goods and nonperishable items for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. This brings our 16-year total to an extraordinary 166,625 items — a testament to what servant leadership looks like when lived out with heart, intention and purpose.

The timing of this announcement felt especially meaningful as our community had just gathered for our annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service, a tradition that grounds us in gratitude and reminds us that service is at the core of who we are. Senior Jacie Hail shared a powerful reflection from her mission trip to the Dominican Republic, reminding us that authentic service is not about what we gain but about how we love: "Service with a spirit of personal gain or moral superiority is not service at all... authentic service is an opportunity to become the hands and feet of Christ and vessels of God's love for us." Her words captured the spirit behind this drive and the generosity our students show year after year.

This year's 15,013 items will help keep pantry shelves stocked well into the summer months, supporting hundreds of families served monthly by St. Vincent de Paul. From creative incentives to friendly grade-level competitions, our Pandas once again showed what it means to step up for others.

Thank you to every student, family, faculty member and staff member who contributed. Your generosity continues to reflect the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame and the mission we strive to live every day.

In all things, give thanks.



## 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.

## 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](mailto:attendance@ndapandas.org). Remember you can always call the school office with any questions 859-261-4300.

PLEASE NOTE!

# PANDA TRAVEL

Join Us


FOR AN INCREDIBLE...

Mustard Seed Communities

## MISSION TRIP

May 30 - June 6, 2026  
Moca, Dominican Republic

**Interest Meeting**  
**Where:** 112  
**When:** PPT on Thursday, December 4th  
Sign up on Flex! Email Ms. Dooling if you are interested and can't make the meeting.



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:** Thursday, December 4th during PPT. Students, please sign up on Flex if interested. If you can't make it, email [Ms. Dooling](#) for details.



ADVENTURE AWAITS!

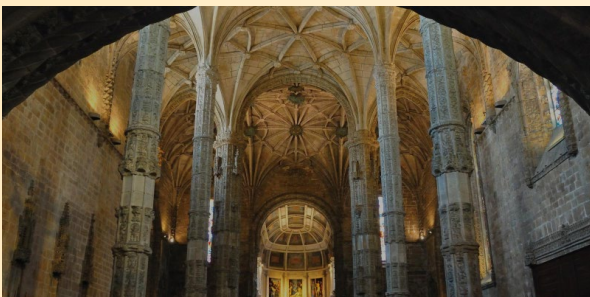
## NOTRE DAME ACADEMY IS HEADING TO SPAIN & PORTUGAL IN JUNE 2027

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.





# FINE ARTS



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## A DECEMBER FILLED WITH MUSIC, ART AND CREATIVITY AT NDA

### Band Concert • Sunday, December 7

Our NDA Band will kick off the Christmas season with a beautiful concert on Sunday, December 7. Students have been preparing all semester, and their festive program will feature classic carols and seasonal selections that showcase their talent and teamwork. Families, friends and alumnae are invited to join us in the theater for an afternoon of joyful music as we begin a month full of celebration at NDA.

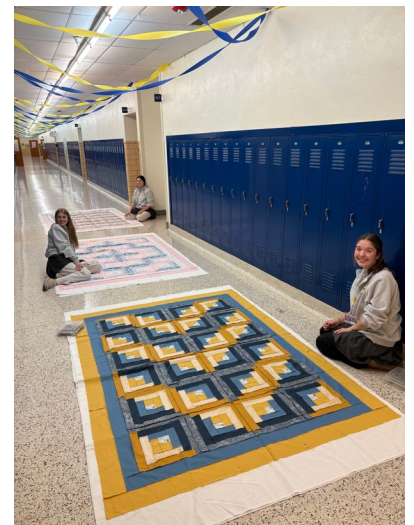
### Textiles & Art Show • Wednesday, December 10

On Wednesday, December 10, our campus will transform into a vibrant gallery as we showcase the incredible work of our Textiles and Art students. The annual Quilt Show will take place from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in Alumnae Hall and will feature 43 student-made quilts along with additional artwork. This open house-style event is a wonderful opportunity to wander, admire and celebrate the creativity of our students.

### Choral Concert & Dance Pandas • Wednesday, December 10

The celebration continues that same evening with our winter Choral Concert at 6:30 p.m. in the theater. The performance will also include a special appearance by our Dance Pandas, making this one of the most anticipated events of the season. With music, movement and a strong sense of NDA pride, the evening promises to be a highlight of December.

Rounding out a full night of Panda spirit, our basketball team will be hosting their first home game of the season!



# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

## FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR PANDA ATHLETICS



### BOWLING

The Bowling Pandas rolled to the number one seed in the Ryle HS Tournament, posting their highest baker game of the season and averaging 157.78 for the event.

They return to competition this Saturday at the NKAC Conference Tournament at Bellwood Lanes.



### ARCHERY

The Archery Pandas kick off their season this weekend as hosts of the NDA Panda Archery Tournament. Five hundred archers from 19 grade school, middle school and high school programs will be on campus throughout the event.

The tournament runs Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. NDA archers will shoot at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday. Seniors will be recognized before the 5 p.m. flight as part of the team's senior night. Stop by and show your support!

### BASKETBALL

Basketball season begins this week. After two strong scrimmages, the Pandas are eager to open regular-season play. They face Newport Central Catholic on TONIGHT, followed by additional early-season matchups as they look to build momentum.





## SWIMMING

Last weekend, the AquaPandas traveled to Chattanooga to compete in the 32nd annual McCallie Invitational, featuring top teams from Tennessee, Georgia and Kentucky. The team delivered an outstanding performance, finishing 4th out of 24 girls teams.

Sophomore Clare Herfel earned an event victory with a thrilling come-from-behind win in the 500 freestyle.

### Top 16 Individual Finishers

Danaka Tucker (Sr): 12th – 200 free; 7th – 500 free

Savannah Bien (Jr): 5th – 1-meter diving

Abby Carnes (Jr): 4th – 100 IM; 2nd – 100 back

Makayla Kleman (Jr): 16th – 200 free; 8th – 500 free

McKenna Bien (So): 9th – 100 fly; 9th – 100 back

Clare Herfel (So): 4th – 200 free; 1st – 500 free

Lily Graham (Fr): 16th – 1-meter diving



### Top 16 Relays

200 Medley Relay: 5th – Carnes, Reagan Connelly (Sr), M. Bien, Herfel

200 Free Relay: 10th – Marisa Kent (Sr), S. Bien, Tucker, Kleman

400 Free Relay: 4th – Carnes, M. Bien, Tucker, Herfel

On Sunday, after attending Mass, the team visited Rock City before heading home — a great way to end a memorable weekend.

### NDA vs. Seton – Dual Meet

On Monday, December 1, the AquaPandas faced the Seton Saints in a dual meet at the Heidt Family Champions Center at Xavier University. The team came up just short on the scoreboard, but the meet featured strong performances, with many swimmers trying new events.

### Top 3 Individual Finishers

Marisa Kent (Sr): 2nd – 200 IM; 1st – 100 back

Peyton Quinn (Sr): 2nd – 50 free; 2nd – 100 free

Tara Gibson (Jr): 3rd – 100 fly; 3rd – 100 breast

Elsie Hanks (Jr): 2nd – 200 free

Charley Koehl (So): 3rd – 500 free

### Winning Relay

200 Medley Relay: Kent, Gibson, Kate Napier (Fr), Quinn

The team recorded 10 individual best times and 6 best relay splits, showing strong progress as the season continues.

**Next up** is the Scott HS Invitational on Saturday, December 6, followed by a dual meet against St. Ursula on Tuesday, December 10. Good luck, AquaPandas!

## VOLLEYBALL

CONGRATULATIONS to our Volleyball Pandas who received awards at the NKGVCA All-Opponents Awards Ceremony!

Dara Jackson - Division I - 2nd Team

Teagan Kondik - Division I - 1st Team

Gracie Portwood - Division I - 1st Team

Audrey Dyas - Division I - Player of the Year

Congratulations to these stand out student-athletes, way to represent NDA!





# COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



## LAST CHANCE FOR TICKETS

### FRESHMAN SEMI-FORMAL

A reminder to all freshmen that today is the last chance to purchase tickets for the Freshman Semi-Formal. The form will close tonight at 11:45 p.m. Purchase tickets The [link found here](#) will take you to the form to buy your tickets.

If you need to arrive late (after 8:30) or leave early (before 10:15), a signed note from a parent must be turned in to the office by Friday, December 5 at 3 p.m.

Please reach out to Mrs. Maggard with any questions.

## 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.

## HAPPY STUDYING!

### EXAM SCHEDULE

The Fall 2025–26 exam schedule is now posted! Please review your exam times carefully and check the NDA Student Parent Handbook for details on exam policies, exemptions, and attendance expectations.

Students should remember to arrive promptly for exams, get plenty of rest, and eat a good breakfast. Snacks will be available for purchase before school and during break on the first two exam days.

View the full exam schedule [HERE](#). Also, [HERE](#) is a slideshow about preparing for exams if you are looking for a good way to start studying.



# Advancing the Mission

## NDA ALUMNAE FAMILY EVENT COOKIES WITH SANTA

NDA Alumnae and their families are invited to a holly-jolly evening on December 12, 2025, from 6-8 PM!

Bring your little ones and step into a winter wonderland filled with: Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus, Cheerful holiday crafts, Christmas cookies & festive treats, Warm Christmas memories with our NDA community. Let's celebrate the season together in true Panda spirit!

[Registration Link](#) OR [www.ndapandas.org/alumnae/events](http://www.ndapandas.org/alumnae/events)

### NDA Alumnae Family Event *Cookies with Santa*



Friday, December 12, 2025  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
in Alumnae Hall at NDA  
\$3 per child

*Join us for cookies, crafts and  
photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus!*



## NOTRE DAME ACADEMY ANNUAL FUND

120  
Years of More

### MAKING AN IMPACT EVERY DAY YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

Thanks to your generosity, the Annual Fund continues to make a meaningful difference - keeping a Notre Dame Academy education accessible, faith-filled and transformative.

Your support brings our Catholic mission to life through retreats and service, empowers passionate educators with the tools and training they need, and provides essential tuition assistance so every student can experience all NDA has to offer.

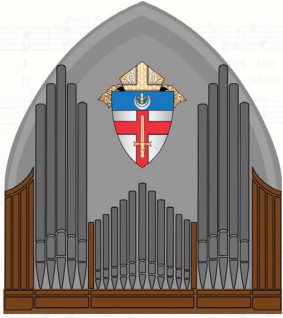
Every gift strengthens faith, supports families and helps our students grow into confident, compassionate leaders.

Parents, if you haven't yet made your Annual Fund gift, please join us - your participation truly matters and helps every Panda thrive.

[MAKE A DIFFERENCE HERE](#)




**DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIRS**  
**DIocese of COVINGTON**



For students in grades 4 and up  
*Weekly Rehearsal Day & Time TBD*

**Directors:** Sydney Allen,  
 Matt Spencer

Scan here to fill out our preliminary interest form:



## COMPLETE THE INTEREST FORM TODAY

# DIOCESAN YOUTH CHOIR

The Diocese of Covington is excited to announce the formation of a Diocesan Youth Choir for the 2026-27 school year for students in the 4th-12th grade. This opportunity is open to all children in these grades regardless of past choir experience. Parents of students interested in the youth choir or learning more should complete an interest form at this link <https://forms.gle/HbKbiAZwkur9wCPv6> or by scanning the QR Code to the left.



## 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

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 and Quilt Show
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