



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

December 5, 2023

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Parents,

As we begin our Advent Journey we are reminded of the significance of prayer and community in our lives. While time seems to pass even more quickly than usual throughout the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it is important for us to take time out during this busy season to pause and remember the blessings of people and community.

Please note that there is no school on Friday, December 8 due to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. On this day we celebrate that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. By giving Mary this grace from the first moment of her conception, God showed us an image of our own destiny. I hope you are able to enjoy celebrating the Eucharist with you daughter on this Holy Day of Obligation.

It is difficult to believe that we only have two more weeks of classes before our Christmas break. Exams will be held December 18-20 this year. Students are dismissed for the day at the end of their last exam on each of those days. Please make sure your daughter gets plenty of rest and has a good breakfast for each exam day as it can be difficult to manage the stress of exams this time of year.

Also, please encourage your daughter to take some time during this season of Advent for joyful preparation and peaceful reflection of the importance of prayer and community in our lives and the coming of our Lord on Christmas day.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



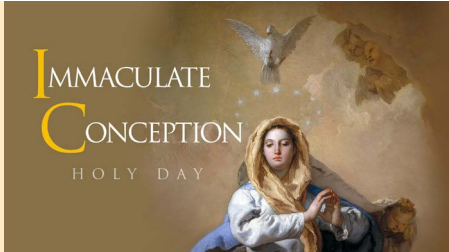
Uniform details for tomorrow (12.07.23)

Tomorrow, we will be celebrating Christmas and Advent with our annual Christmas concert and performance. Students are invited to wear a Christmas top with their uniform bottoms and normal, dress code compliant leggings. They can accessorize with Christmas headbands, jewelry and socks.

Students in the band and choir should wear what they were instructed to wear by Mr. Cerimele and Ms. Chandler.

Have a great day and make good choices!

Student Life



HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

There will be no school on Friday, December 8 as the Feast of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - a holy day of obligation.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY ADVENT

During this special time of the year, we are very fortunate at NDA to have dedicated staff and students who remind us of the beauty of the season. Our building has been decorated by the members of the Student Council, the moderators and the maintenance staff (who constantly take such good care of our building). As you drive through the circle, may you also be reminded of the beauty.

Our students will also continue to join in the holiday spirit as they will enjoy the Christmas Concert this Thursday, December 7. We are looking forward to hearing our PandaTones and Band perform.

In addition to the performance on December 7, we will also celebrate the sacredness of this season with an Advent Mass on Monday, December 11. We look forward to this solemn celebration as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLEMENT WEATHER

As December approaches, it comes with the possibility of school closings and delays due to natural elements, hazardous road conditions or power outages. The decision to close or delay school is made with the safety of students, parents and faculty/staff in mind. If there is a need to delay or close school, NDA will use the emergency notification system SwiftK12 to communicate to all school community members through email, text and phone. This decision will also be publicized on all of our social media accounts along with the website.



FAMILY TIME

CHRISTMAS FUN

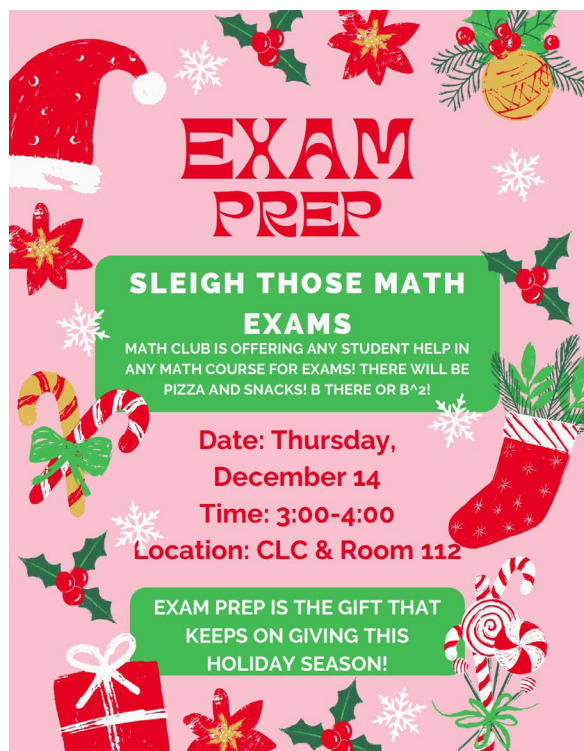
In another effort to celebrate the season of Christmas and Advent, our students will be gathering with their families on December 15 during homeroom for some Christmas fun. We look forward to seeing what the family leaders plan and how we can celebrate together.



TIME TO STUDY

EXAM SCHEDULE

Students and parents can find the midterm exam schedule [HERE](#). Students, please look over it and make a copy for your own schedule. Note that we will not go to Homeroom but you will have a break time where you can get a snack or study or whatever you may need to do in the common areas of the school. Best of luck with exams!



EXAM PREP

MATH MASTERY SESSION

Math Club and Mu Alpha Theta will be hosting an exam prep session on December 14th from 3-4pm. Students in any math class are welcome to come get help from their peers in preparation for the upcoming midterm exams. We will meet in the CLC and room 112. We will have pizza and snacks! Be there or b^2!



DECEMBER 10

BAND CONCERT

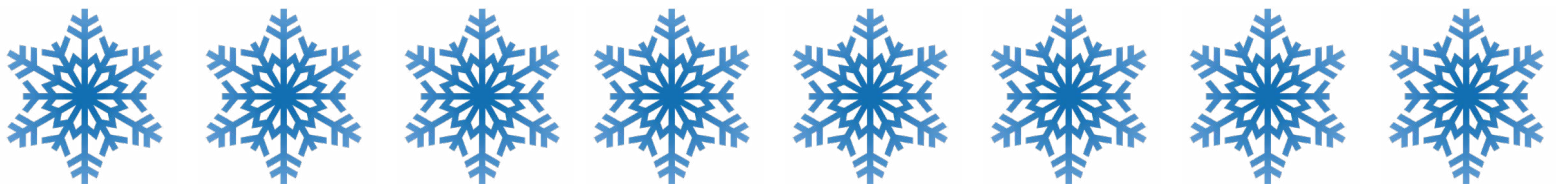
Join us for a magical musical celebration this Christmas season at the NDA Auditorium on Sunday, December 10, as all our talented Band and Color Guard come together for their annual holiday concert. The concert begins at 4:30 p.m. This joyful event is not only free but also open to the public. Don't miss this heartwarming performance that promises to bring the joy and magic of Christmas to life!



DECEMBER 13

PANDA TONES AND DANCE PANDAS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Step into a world of holiday cheer as Panda Tones and the Dance Pandas come together for a spectacular Christmas concert on December 13, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Our talented performers will treat the audience to festive melodies and lively dance routines. This heartwarming event is perfect for families and friends looking to immerse themselves in the joy of the season!



FRESHMAN SEMI-FORMAL FANCY FRESHMEN FUN!!!

The Drug Free Club of NDA offered a semi-formal dance for the freshmen students this past Saturday evening. The dance was solely run by the counselors and students of the Drug Free Club. They transformed the cafeteria and auditorium into a winter wonderland for the students. The upperclassmen also worked to generate songs and encourage the freshmen to dance, while serving refreshments and taking photos of them in a photo booth. The freshmen seemed to enjoy themselves. They were dressed to impress and enjoyed dancing and hanging with their peers. There was a pretty competitive dance competition, a limbo competition, a kanga line, etc. It was an exceptional evening of celebrating, so thank you to Mrs. Hildreth, the other counselors, and the Drug Free Club for volunteering to give the freshmen students a memorable evening.



YEARBOOK

MEMORIES FOR LIFE

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY

NDA's 2024 yearbook, 24 hOURS, is on sale now for the early price of \$77 through December 15. Buy now to take advantage of early-bird pricing at the NDA store at jostens.com. This is a must have for all Pandas! Mr. Glynn and our Publications team does an AMAZING job capturing all of the wonderful happenings at NDA throughout the year and students will look back at their yearbook for years to come.

NDA's 2023 yearbook, Finding Our Groove, is on track for fall delivery! Be sure to check the Panda Press for updates and a special '23 graduate welcome back/yearbook pickup event!



DELICIOUS NEWS

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

You can find NDA's lunch menu below and on our website [HERE](#).

Parents, please check your daughter's lunch account balance. We have many overdue accounts and some are quite large.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIME

BAMBOOTIQUE

Get your Panda some new spiritwear from the Bambootique this Christmas! Shop at NDA (holiday hours listed below) or online [HERE](#).

HOLIDAY BAMBOOTIQUE HOURS:

Monday - Friday, Now - December 19: 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 9: 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 16: 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We are looking for volunteers for the Bambootique. If you can help out, please sign up [HERE](#).

PLEASE NOTE! ➡

PLEASE NOTE

ATTENDANCE EMAIL

If your daughter is going to be late, out for the day or if she is leaving early, please contact the office through is attendance@ndapandas.org or call the main phone line 859-261-4300.



BISHOP IFFERT INVITES DIOCESAN FAMILIES & FRIENDS

BAMBINELLI & CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING

Bishop John Iffert invites diocesan families and friends to attend the second annual Bambinelli and Christmas Tree Blessing on Sunday, December 17, 2023 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Park and the Diocesan Curia (Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium). 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 the story of Bambinelli Sunday. 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!

THREADED CREATIONS

TEXTILES TALENTS

The Quilt Show is coming up on December 14 and 15. Our students are working very hard! The quilts will be placed on their racks and set up on December 14 and will be on display until 7:00 on Friday, December 15. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to attend from 5-7 on December 15. These students have worked so hard to design beautiful pieces, please be sure to congratulate them for their efforts and hard work.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

GO PANDAS!

HELLO SPORTS FANS

ATHLETIC CALENDAR

Don't miss any of the action with our Panda athletes! [Here](#) is the calendar for the upcoming week.

FROM THE DESK OF THE

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Bowling - Congrats to our Bowling Pandas on their successful participation in their Conference tournament today at Bellwood Lanes in Newport. They finished 7th in a field of 9 girls teams with a 1073 total for 9 games. Great bowling and awesome team spirit!

Our bowlers would like to thank Coach Bunke and the Senton High School Bowling team for the first of many yearly matches. The Pandas came up a little short but had a lot of fun!

Archery - A special thank you to everyone who volunteered last weekend and made the NDA Panda Tournament such an awesome success and a great experience for 505 archers and 1200 spectators. 26 schools from Northern Kentucky, Louisville and West Virginia participated in the tournament.

The Panda Archery team had a great tournament scoring 2930 with 107 tens. The team was led by Ava Boertlein at 273, Lea Youtsey at 271, Lucy Siegert at 254, Reagan Carman at 251 and Mack Zemter at 247.

Next up for the Pandas is this weekend at Cooper High School.

PANDA ATHLETES ROCK!

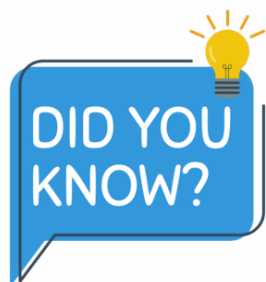


COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



ATTENTION SOPHOMORES

REGIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP



If you are a current sophomore and interested in leadership, check out the RYL Program. Regional Youth Leadership is a leadership development program for high school juniors representing public, private and home schools in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Using the community as our classroom, we collaborate with local business and civic leaders as well as individual schools to enhance the educational experience and complement academic classroom learning. RYL is a series of sessions held monthly during the school day from September through March. Each session will focus on a specific topic hosted by businesses and organizations in the region and managed by community leaders. APPLICATION DEADLINE is: February 1.

Apply here: <https://regionalyouthleadership.weebly.com/application.html>



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.



CHECK IT OUT!

THE KY GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Creative Writing - Dance - Design - Drama - Instrumental Music - Vocal Music - Musical Theatre - Visual Art - Film + Photography

- GSA is a tuition-free residential summer program for passionate and talented artists from across the Commonwealth.
- GSA Alumni receive access to scholarships at nearly 30 colleges/universities, as well as life-long mentorships and a transformative summer experience.
- Click **HERE** for Applicant Guides
- Only two GSA 101 Webinars are left:
- Wednesday, December 6 - 5:00 p.m. Click **here** to register!
- **Applications due January 14, 2024.**



SOPHOMORE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

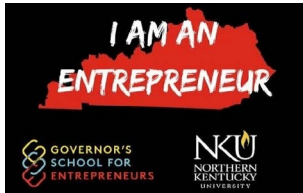
NOMINATE FOR HOBY CONFERENCE 2023

Notre Dame Academy may nominate three sophomore students to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Conference next summer on the campus of Berea College from June 6-9. Student ambassadors participate in facilitated dialog and workshops to develop Personal Leadership, Group Leadership, Service Leadership, and Global Leadership. Click [HERE](#) for more information. **Applications are due Dec. 19** and are available in the Quad.

UNLEASH YOUR ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

APPLY NOW FOR THE KY GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR ENTREPRENEURS 2024

Applications are open for the [KY Governor's School for Entrepreneurs](#) to current to 9th, 10th, and 11th grade KY residents and are **due January 22, 2024**. Spend 3 weeks of the summer on the campus of Northern Kentucky University with other high school entrepreneurs, learning how to nurture ideas into businesses. The first step is to create a 90-second video showing why you'd be a good team member. See the website for information and application tips!



ELEVATE YOUR SUMMER

APPLY NOW FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS ACADEMY 2024

The Commonwealth Honors Academy is a summer academic enrichment experience held on the campus of Murray State University. The Academy brings together 90 rising high school seniors in an interdisciplinary learning environment for three weeks (June 8-June 29). Students live on campus while taking college-level honors classes and participating in fun activities and seminars. Students will receive 6 hours of university credit and opportunities for scholarship. **The deadline for application is March 1, 2024.** For the application and more information, click [HERE](#).



CHECK IT OUT

IN5'S VALUABLE RESOURCES

IN5 has some [great resources](#) for December's Focus on Community! ([Enjoy this short video!](#))



NDA GRIEF SUPPORT

UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUAL JOURNEYS AND EMBRACING HEALING TOGETHER

Grief is unique to each individual and the journey is different for each of us. The process takes time and involves many different emotions. NDA would like to invite interested students who have experienced the loss of a loved one to a support group conducted by Fernside, a local Center for Grieving Children. The group would meet 6 times during the school day throughout the 2nd semester. Contact Mrs. Hildreth to learn more.



ADVANCING THE MISSION



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
Educating Women to Make a Difference

SIGN UP TODAY

HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST

Saturday, December 9, 2023

All incoming freshman students interested in attending Notre Dame Academy must take the High School Placement Test. There is a testing fee of \$20.00 that must be paid at the time of test registration.

PRIORITY FOR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS WHO TAKE THE HSPT AT NOTRE DAME ACADEMY.

**SIGN UP TO TAKE THE
HSPT at NDA HERE:**



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE
EXTENDED!**

*Join the
Panda family!*

**SIGN UP TODAY
HSPT AT NDA**

It's not too late to register for the High School Placement Test at NDA. The HSPT is this Saturday, December 9 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon at NDA.

You can download the registration form [HERE](#).

THANK YOU

EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE

The halls of NDA are filled with gratitude and the feeling of giving!

We want to thank you, as parents and guardians, for entrusting NDA to educate your daughter to make a difference in the world. We passionately believe in the holistic, rigorous and Catholic education provided to the young women of our community that develops their God given gifts and prepares them to be lifelong learners. We invite you to partner with us in our mission. Your contribution to the annual fund directly supports programs, projects and teachers for the 2023-2024 operating budget while also shaping plans for future growth and programming. Your generosity has a meaningful impact on your students' everyday experiences in academics, faith formation and co-curricular activities.

Please consider supporting the growth and excellence of Notre Dame Academy by investing in our Annual Fund, ensuring a vibrant future for our school community.

**Striving for excellence
in all we teach
and do...**



INVEST IN NDA



SHARING OUR Community News

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

- 2023-24 Thomas More Dual-Credit Information Sessions
- Molly Mayer's Studio of Dance

Important dates

December 7	In School - Christmas Band & Choral concert Musical Auditions Call Backs
December 8	NO SCHOOL - Immaculate Conception Silver Bells Dance - Newport Car Barn
December 9	HSPT at NDA
December 10	NDA to the Bengals game Band and Color Guard Christmas Concert 4:30-5:30
December 11	HSPT Make-up date
December 13	Panda Tones & Dance Pandas Christmas Concert 6:30-7:30
December 14	Quilt show
December 15	Alumnae Event - Cookies with Santa (6-8:00 p.m.)
December 18	Exams begin
December 19	College Welcome Back Night - Class of 2023
December 20	Faculty/Staff Christmas party End of 2nd Quarter
December 21- January 2	Christmas Break
January 3	Classes Resume
January 5	New Year's Mass with Bishop Iffert
January 8	Incoming Freshman Scholarship Recognition HSPT Results Meeting
January 10	Senior Retreat #2