



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Panda Press Weekly

December 10, 2025

THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Panda Families,

As we enter the second week of Advent, our school is filled with the quiet hope and joyful anticipation that define this sacred season. Each morning, our Jesse Tree reflections invite our students to pause, breathe and prepare their hearts for Christ's coming. In these simple moments of stillness, we are reminded that God's grace often arrives gently, in the ordinary rhythm of our days.

This past week has also offered us many reasons to be proud of our Pandas. Their hard work and dedication continue to shine — in the classroom, in their service to others and in the recent honors earned across academics, innovation and the arts. Whether celebrating award-winning projects, standout performances or quiet acts of leadership that often go unseen, our students continue to reflect the mission and spirit of NDA in meaningful ways.

Tonight, our community has a beautiful opportunity to gather and celebrate the gifts God has placed in our young women. I warmly invite you to join us for our annual Textiles & Art Show from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in Alumnae Hall, followed by our winter Choral Concert and a special performance from our Dance Pandas at 6:30 p.m. in the theater. These evenings are always a highlight of the year — moments where creativity, joy and Panda spirit come together in a way that brings light to this Advent season.

As we approach exams and the close of the semester, please know of my prayers for your daughters and your families. May the peace of this season find its way into your homes, and may the hope of Christ's coming be felt in the days ahead.

Walk in Faith,

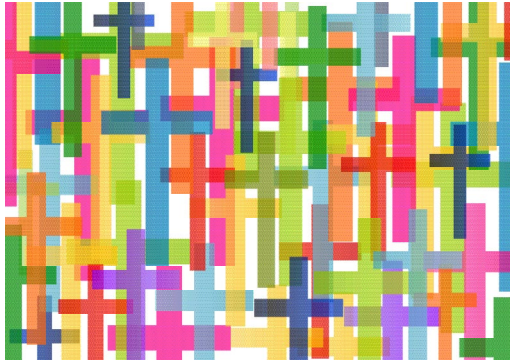
Mrs. Lisa Timmerding

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



Walk in Faith!

FAITH IN ACTION



FAITH FORMATION

UPCOMING LITURGIES

We will pray a decade of the Rosary at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, December 11 and Monday, December 15.

We will celebrate Mass at 7:20 a.m. on Tuesday, December 16 in the chapel.

We will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday, December 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the gym.



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr. Kunath will be available for Confessions during PPT on Tuesday, December 16 in the chapel. We will also have adoration in the chapel during that time.



LIVING OUR MISSION - MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A TRADITION OF COMPASSION

On Wednesday, December 3, some members of the NDA LIFE Club along with some CCH friends helped label and pack over 1600 dove ornaments for St. Elizabeth Hospice. These will be sent out to all families who have lost a loved one with the Hospice in the last year. NDA has been partnering with St. E Hospice for over 25 years on this service project and it is a student favorite each year. We especially like joining with CCH in this work.

Student Life



PANDAS WIN TOP HONORS IGNITION DAY CHAMPIONS SHINE AT SPARKHAUS

Notre Dame Academy students lit up SparkHaus in Covington during this year's NKY Ignition Day, earning top awards for their innovation, teamwork, and entrepreneurial thinking.

Ella Nienaber, Sophie Hollenkamp, and Cami Norris's group, ChewsWisely, captured the I-Gen Champion title and won Best Innovation, leading all teams with an impressive 117 points.

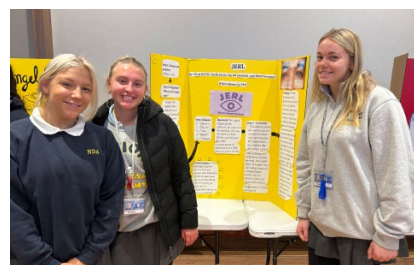
Two additional NDA teams placed in the Top 10 percent with standout scores of 114 points each:

- Breath-A-Lock — Sophia Ianarelli, Lyla Noll, Ella Epplen, and Emmie Sheets
- Santa's Sticky Wrap — Megan Zumbiel, Lizzy Fite, Paige Haas, and Clara Moore



Our Pandas used STEM skills, creativity, and collaboration to develop award-winning ideas that impressed the judges and elevated NDA as a leader in innovation.

Thank you to Junior Achievement and SparkHaus for inspiring young women to think boldly and lead with confidence. What an exciting day for NDA innovation!





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 is launching a Christmas toy drive to support Be Concerned. From **December 8-12**, each family has been assigned an age group to help spread joy to children in need while earning family points. Donations may be dropped off in the front office.

Family assignments are:

Purple Family ages 0-3

Green Family ages 4-6

Pink Family ages 7-10

Blue Family ages 11-16

Remember:

Thursday: No uniform with one toy

Friday: Chance to win a Bambootique gift card with one toy

For gift suggestions, please refer to the email sent to all students.

FBLA is grateful to lead this service project in its first year back in action.

Thank you, Pandas, for your generosity and Christmas spirit.



SCOUT ELF

THERE'S HOLIDAY MAGIC IN THE HALLS OF NDA!

NDA has officially been adopted by our very own Scout Elf, and he has wasted no time stirring up festive fun! Each morning, our mischievous little friend finds a new hiding spot somewhere around campus—perching on ledges, peeking from lockers, and causing giggles wherever he goes.

Our students have turned into full-time Elf Detectives, searching high and low in hopes of spotting him first and earning points for their Family Group. The competition is merry and bright... but only one Family Group will claim the title of Scout Elf Champs 2025!

Who will it be? Stay tuned—and keep those eyes peeled, Pandas!



Pictured above: stage one, the separation process

CHRISTMAS SINCE OCTOBER! SERVICE IN STAGES

Spanish students began on October 9 visiting FiestaNKY who had received about 1000 toys to give to needy children for Christmas. The toys were stored in one small closet. So about 10 students arranged the toys into age groups and gender. After that was completed, on November 8, students joined with the AP Spanish Highlands HS class and volunteers from St. Henry to wrap all the presents. Donuts and traditional Hispanic hot chocolate made the time go faster. It was also a rewarding experience to collaborate with other schools with a noncompetitive but charitable goal in mind. Finally, on December 6, about 13 students handed out the gifts to excited little ones. It was truly a unique experience in which we could begin a project and follow it through each month. It was an appropriate preparation for the great feast of Christmas.



Stage 2: wrapping of the gifts



Stage 3: The "elves" passing out the wrapped toys



PANDA PARTY

FRESHMAN SEMI-FORMAL FUN!

Our freshman Pandas had an unforgettable night at this weekend's Freshman Semi-Formal! From the photos to the dance floor, it was all smiles, great music and lots of new memories made with friends.

Huge thank you to everyone who helped make the night so special for our Class of 2029.

SHOW YOUR PANDA SPIRIT

TIME TO VOTE PANDAS!

Notre Dame Academy is proud to share that senior swimmer Marisa Kent has been nominated for the Cincinnati Enquirer's Greater Cincinnati High School Athlete of the Week. Marisa earned this nomination after an outstanding performance at Scott, where she won the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 1:09.45 and placed third in the 100 yard backstroke in 1:08.35.

Students, families and alumnae are encouraged to cast their votes using the link below. You may vote once per hour, and the deadline is Friday at 4 p.m. Turning off WiFi can help ensure your vote is counted.

Vote for Marisa here:

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/sports/high-school/high-school-sports/2025/12/08/vote-for-the-greater-cincinnati-high-school-athlete-of-the-week-dec-8/87674021007/>

NDA Bowling has also been nominated for linknky.com's Team of the Week following another strong week of competition. Please show your support by voting at the link below.

Vote for NDA Bowling here:

<https://linknky.com/sports/2025/12/08/vote-for-the-link-nky-team-of-the-week-2/>

Thank you for helping celebrate our Pandas who continue to use their gifts and talents so well. Have a wonderful rest of your Tuesday!

VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!



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. 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.



SHOP FOR YOUR PANDA!

BAMBOOTIQUE HOLIDAY HOURS

Special Holiday hours in the Bambootique from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following Saturdays: December 13 and December 20.

Come by to shop for your pandas and pick up your favorite NDA spirit wear! Holiday gifts are also available in store or 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.



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! And check back for purchase info on our 2026 book, "From the Top."

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.

PLEASE NOTE!

FINE ARTS



SEE YOU TONIGHT!

A DECEMBER FILLED WITH MUSIC, ART AND CREATIVITY AT NDA

Our December celebrations are off to an incredible start!

Last Friday's in-school Band Concert was absolutely amazing, and Sunday's full Band Concert was nothing short of outstanding. Our musicians have worked so hard, and their performances truly set a joyful tone for the season.

Now get ready tonight for more Fine Arts at NDA...

Textiles & Art Show • Wednesday, December 10

This Wednesday, campus transforms into a vibrant gallery as we showcase the remarkable work of our Textiles and Art students. The annual Quilt Show runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in Alumnae Hall and features 43 student-made quilts along with additional artwork. Stop by, wander and enjoy the creativity on display.

Choral Concert & Dance Pandas • Wednesday, December 10

That same evening, join us in the theater at 6:30 p.m. for our winter Choral Concert, featuring a special performance by our Dance Pandas. With beautiful music, movement and Panda pride, it promises to be one of the highlights of the season.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR PANDA ATHLETICS



ARCHERY

The Pandas had a solid start to their season. While they finished 4th in team scoring, their 3113 qualifies them for the KY NASP State tournament – the 2nd year in a row the Pandas punched their post season ticket in their first attempt! They had some great individual performances as well... taking 3 of the top 5 spots in the female high school division! Ava Boertlein turned in an amazing 286 to win the entire tournament! Sarah Beckham took 2nd place with a personal best 285 and Jade Wachs scored a personal best 277 to take 5th place! Over the entire team, 12 archers score personal bests this weekend! Next up is the St. Henry tournament on Saturday.

SWIM AND DIVE

Scott HS Invitational - On Saturday, December 6, the AquaPandas competed in the Scott High School Invitational at the Kenton County Aquatics Center. The team delivered a strong performance, finishing second overall out of 16 teams and earning three individual event victories.

Top 8 Individual Finishers

Marisa Kent (Sr): 1st – 100 Fly, 3rd – 100 Back
Peyton Quinn (Sr): 3rd – 200 IM, 1st – 50 Free
Charlie Frank (Jr): 5th – 200 Free
Tara Gibson (Jr): 2nd – 200 Free, 8th – 50 Free
Elsie Hanks (Jr): 7th – 200 IM, 2nd – 100 Free
Nora Vonbokern (Jr): 4th – 100 Free
Caroline Gollar (So): 5th – 50 Free, 1st – 100 Breast

Top 3 Relays

200 Medley Relay – 2nd: Kent, Gollar, Hanks, Quinn
200 Free Relay – 3rd: Vonbokern, Hanks, Gibson, Gollar
400 Free Relay – 2nd: Quinn, Gibson, Frank, Kent

The AquaPandas also posted six new individual best times and four best relay splits, reflecting the team's strong mid-season form and rising confidence.

This week will be a busy one, with a dual meet vs. St. Ursula at St. Bernard-Elmwood Place HS on Wednesday, December 10, Girls Night Out hosted by Trinity HS at the Ralph Wright Natatorium on Friday, December 12, and the Nicole Tucker Invitational at the Kenton County Aquatics Center on Saturday, December 13. Good luck, AquaPandas!

BOWLING

The Panda bowling crushed the CRU at Erlanger strike and spares. Taking the best of seven, 5-2 over St. Henry and with that came some great bowling.

Freshman Erica Barczak 129 and 141, and Freshman Sophie Woods 109.

Sophomore Clare Pelstring with 140 and 133. Leading the way were Juniors Haley Pelstring 192 and a 189 and Sophomore Alyssa Bechtol rolling a 212 and 223.

Our NDA Bowling team has done it again. Took our first NKAC championships and our second tournament victory for the year. The team was third after the first three baker games. Then from game four on with spares, strikes, team spirit captured first placed and never looked back.

Pandas are back on the lanes Saturday at Western bowl in Cincinnati for Holiday classic. Congratulations on a great win!

BASKETBALL

Last Wednesday our Pandas traveled to Newport Central to open their season. They defeated the Breds NCC 63-30. This was the first game under Coach Stoll as they returned to NCC, his former grounds as a player and a coach.

Then on Friday the Pandas took on Scott High School at the Donna Murphy Classic. They defeated the Lady Eagles 49-31.

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



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.

JOIN US

EXAMFEST

Pandas, if you are looking for a place to study and get ready for exams, stop by the cafeteria after school Monday for ExamFest. Students are welcome to bring any subject to work on, but the main focus will be math support.

Members of Mu Alpha Theta, NDA's Math Honors Society, are planning to attend and will be available to answer questions and offer extra help as you prepare for finals.

Pizza will arrive at 3:10, and study time will run until 4:30.

Bring your notes, your questions and your friends — and give yourself a strong start to exam week. See you there!





THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

GET A HEAD START ON COLLEGE

THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY DUAL CREDIT INFORMATION SESSIONS AVAILABLE THIS SPRING

Future freshmen, sophomores and seniors interested in earning college credit while still in high school are invited to explore Thomas More University's Dual Credit Program. TMU is offering several information sessions this spring to help families prepare for the 2026–2027 school year.

During a 30 minute session, students and parents will learn how TMU Dual Credit allows high school students to earn college credit at a reduced tuition rate, explore college-level coursework in a supportive environment and get a head start on their academic journey.

Sessions are offered each fall and spring. They are open to all prospective students and their families, but an RSVP is required. After registering, families will receive email reminders with additional details, including the Zoom link, and a copy of the presentation after the session.

Spring Sessions

- [Information Session 2](#) (Zoom) – Wednesday, January 21 at 6 p.m.
- [Information Session 3](#) (Zoom) – Wednesday, February 11 at 6 p.m.
- [Diocese of Covington Info Session](#) (In Person at TMU with Gateway and NKU) – Wednesday, February 25 at 6 p.m.

Families can find RSVP links for each session on TMU's Dual Credit webpage.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

HSPT - DECEMBER 13 AT NDA!

Do you know a young woman who would benefit from an NDA education? Encourage her to take the High School Placement Test (HSPT) at Notre Dame Academy this Saturday, December 13, from 9 a.m. to noon.

All incoming freshmen are required to take the test, and students who test at NDA receive priority consideration for freshman academic scholarships.

Doors open at 8:45 a.m., and all testing materials will be provided. Students may bring a small snack and drink for the break. The registration fee is \$20.

Parents are invited to a Financial Aid Information Session from 11:15 a.m. to noon in the cafeteria — no registration needed. The Bambootique Spirit Shop will also be open during testing.

There's still time to register. Invite a future Panda to take her first step toward an empowering NDA education!

REGISTER TODAY

HSPT
High School
Placement Test
at NDA

December 13 | 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Advancing the Mission

NDA ALUMNAE FAMILY EVENT

COOKIES WITH SANTA - STILL SPACE LEFT!

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

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



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](#)



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 10	Christmas Choral Concert with Dance Pandas and Quilt Show
December 11	Out of Uniform for a Toy
December 12	Advent Mass
	Cookies with Santa
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	Classes Resume
January 9	All School New Year's Mass
January 12	HSPT Scholarship Reception
	HSPT Result Mtg
January 14-16	Senior Retreat #2
January 15	Alumnae Rosary
January 16-18	NDA/CCH Showcase
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
January 26	Catholic Schools Week begins
	Mass with SNDs
	CSW Volleyball Game