



THE *nda* LIFE

## Dear Panda Families,

I hope this message finds you well as we continue our Advent journey and prepare to celebrate the joyous season of Christmas. The joy of the season has been felt in our halls thanks to our students and faculty and staff. It has been a remarkable start to a blessed holiday season.

I want to thank everyone for being so understanding and flexible last week when our Silver Bells dance had to be postponed. I truly felt the support and strength of this community, especially our students. On Saturday as I watched the weather and continued to look out my window to be sure that it was in fact snowing, I received many messages from students attempting to help me solve the problem of rescheduling. The ladies were not complaining, but offering suggestions and alternatives as they knew this was a hard decision for us to make. I truly appreciated their thoughts and feedback and was so proud to be their principal. We have a few dates from the Car Barn that are options for us: 1/9, 1/10, 1/23, and 1/30. Unfortunately each one of them conflicts in some way with our winter sports schedules. We are a very busy school with very dedicated students. It seems that the best option remains 1/10, provided we can make arrangements to accommodate our student swimmers. More information will be sent to the swim team, their coaches, and parents as we finalize the details for this rescheduled event. Thank you again for the cooperation and flexibility!!

In other updates, our students have been working hard this week preparing for and taking their exams. Their dedication is truly impressive, and we're incredibly proud of all their hard work. To balance the intensity of exams, we've made it a priority to maintain a sense of joy and tradition these past few weeks at NDA. We celebrated with our Advent mass last Friday. Advent attire and Christmas attire was worn on Monday and Tuesday. The cafeteria was filled with the joy of Christmas music and our holiday Elf challenge continued. We hope that this balance of happiness and fun helped to alleviate the stress and heavy load that so many might have felt this week.

As we conclude the semester and prepare for a well-earned Christmas break, I encourage our students to take time to rest, recharge and reflect on the blessings of the year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, January 5. At the end of that week, we will come together to welcome the year of 2026 and to pray for blessings and grace for this new year. During this mass, we will especially keep in mind Mr. Hunter Fleury, our beloved art teacher. This week he was informed that he has recurrent cancer that will need to be removed and treated as soon as possible. Our students were not informed of this yet, as our faculty and staff were just informed on Tuesday. We will be in contact with the parents of his students as we learn more about his upcoming battle. Please join us in storming the heavens for Hunter, his family and his medical team.

May the hope, peace, and joy of the third week of Advent fill your hearts as we prepare for the coming of Christ. On behalf of everyone at NDA, I wish you and your families a blessed and Merry Christmas.

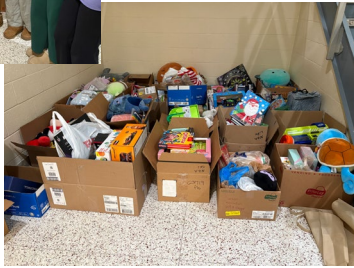
Walk in Faith,

*Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding*

Mrs. Lisa Ruwe Timmerding '97



# FAITH IN ACTION



## LIVING OUR MISSION TOY DRIVE

Thank you to the FBLA Club for leading our Christmas Toy Drive benefiting BeConcerned. Our Pandas helped to collect an amazing 735 toys! These toys help to replenish their toy store so that parents and grandparents can pick out gifts for their children/grandchildren this holiday season.



## FAITH FORMATION UPCOMING LITURGIES

Fr. Kunath will celebrate mass in the chapel at 7:20 a.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

We will pray a decade of the rosary in chapel on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:45 a.m.

We will gather as a school community for our annual New Year's Mass on Friday, January 9 at 9:30 a.m.

## MAKNG A DIFFERENCE SERVICE



Just a reminder that Freshmen and Sophomore Service Hours are due on March 31. At this point students should have about half of their hours completed so that they are not rushing to get them all completed at the last minute. A full description of Service Requirements can be found [here](#). Mrs. Price will be meeting with all Sophomores and Freshmen individually when we return from Christmas break to look at their MobileServe Log and answer any questions. Students also have access to this [live up to date list](#) of service opportunities that are called into the Campus Ministry Office. Students are also encouraged to check with their parish/community as there are lots of service opportunities during the Holiday Season.

The Juniors have all received their Service Placements and will begin their weekly service the first week in January. Juniors who will be driving their group each week have been encouraged to drive their route to and from the agency using the directions provided by Mrs. Price before the first week out to service. These directions are posted in their Religion google classroom.

# Student Life



## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

### GLOBAL SISTERHOOD AT NDA

Notre Dame Academy has enjoyed a wonderful season of global connection as we welcomed German exchange students to our community again this school year. In October, we were delighted to welcome Louise Rohe, Victoria Schnieders, Frida Varnhorn, and Sarah Schmidt, who quickly became part of the daily rhythm of campus life. These young women joined us as juniors, immersing themselves fully in student life, academics, and the spirit of sisterhood that defines NDA.

Next month, we will continue our exchange partnership by welcoming two additional students. On January 5, Lucy Boye and Julia Hermes will arrive and will be part of our NDA community through March 20.

We are grateful for the opportunity to host these talented young women and for the families who help make their stay meaningful. Programs like this enrich our community, broaden our perspectives, and strengthen the global sisterhood we share.

## CREATIVITY, COLLABORATION an FAITH

### STUDENT ARTISTS CREATE PRAYER BOOK FOR DONORS

Students in Stephanie Ammerman's Commercial Art and Design class recently completed a meaningful project that combined creativity, collaboration, and faith. As part of their introduction to Adobe InDesign, students designed a prayer book that will be shared with our NDA donors as a gift of gratitude.

To begin the project, the class was divided into four teams representing the four seasons. Students worked together to determine which elements of the book should remain consistent across all pages and where individual creativity could shine. Each student selected a prayer, designed a layout, and created hand-drawn icons and border illustrations using Procreate.

The finished booklet reflects both the artistic talent of our students and the heart of our community. Prayer is woven into the fabric of life at NDA, and this collection offers moments of reflection, peace, and connection with God throughout the year.

We are grateful to these young artists for sharing their gifts in a way that brings beauty and inspiration to others. Their work is a wonderful example of how faith and creativity come together here at NDA.

Prayers for the  
Notre Dame  
Academy  
Community  
2025-2026



Seasonal  
Prayers for  
Winter



## RESCHEDULING INFORMATION

### SILVER BELLS

Thank you to everyone for your understanding and flexibility when our Silver Bells dance was postponed last week. We have been working to secure a new date, and we are planning to move forward with January 10 for the rescheduled event. Because this date overlaps with winter sports commitments, we are working to make appropriate accommodations for our student swimmers.

We will share additional information with the swim team, their coaches, and parents as soon as details are finalized. Thank you again for your patience and continued support.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

### 2026-27 FINANCIAL AID & WORK STUDY APPLICATION



At Notre Dame Academy, we are committed to partnering with any family whose daughter could benefit from an NDA education. For the 2025-26 school year, NDA provided \$944,297 in financial assistance and tuition allowances, demonstrating our strong commitment to accessibility and our continued efforts to keep tuition increases to a minimum without sacrificing quality or opportunity.

**To better serve our families and provide award decisions earlier in the enrollment process, we have moved this year's application deadline to February 28, 2026.**

**FACTS financial aid and work study applications opened December 15, and families may use their 2024 tax information when applying.**

For questions or assistance, please contact Mr. Cliff Ludwig, CFO, at 859-292-1844.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE

### TRAFFIC LIGHT UPDATE



We are happy to share that the traffic light at the bottom of Hilton Drive has officially been repaired. After several days of delays and extra congestion, we appreciate the patience and understanding shown by our parents, students, and drivers during this unexpected disruption.

SRO Jodie Rigney received confirmation from the repair team that the light is fully operational.

We know this temporary outage added stress to afternoon pickup, and we are grateful that our community navigated it with calm and cooperation. Your flexibility helped keep everyone safe.



## DELIVERING CHRISTMAS SPIRIT NEHS SHARES CHRISTMAS JOY WITH THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

Members of NDA's National English Honor Society (NEHS) spent part of December spreading Christmas cheer to the Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Charles and on the fourth floor of NDA. During a recent meeting, students assembled thoughtful gift baskets filled with puzzle books, chocolates, candies, and essential toiletry items.



Last week, NEHS members delivered the baskets in person, spending time with the sisters, introducing themselves, and sharing meaningful conversations. The sisters have since sent many thank you notes expressing how much joy the visit brought them and how grateful they were for the students' kindness.

A sincere thank members of NEHS and their moderator, Mr. Butch Hamm for living out our mission with such generosity and heart!



## CSW TALENT SHOW! CALLING ALL NDA PANDAS!

Get ready for Catholic Schools Week's "Pandas Got Talent" Showcase! From singing and dancing to comedy, music, and beyond—this is your moment to shine. Join us for a fun-filled event on Friday, January 30 during school time celebrating the incredible talent that makes NDA so special.

Interested in performing? Be sure to fill out the Google Form linked here: [Pandas Got Talent Registration Form](#). It's sure to be a great time highlighting all the amazing gifts of our Pandas!





## STUDENTS INVITED TO SERVE

# NDA'S FIRST-EVER MUSTARD SEED MISSION TRIP

Registration is now open for NDA's first-ever Mustard Seed Mission Trip. Join us for a week of service, community, and spiritual growth as we accompany and serve some of the most vulnerable communities.

Dates: May 30 through June 6, 2026

Location: Moca, Dominican Republic

Cost: \$1,200 (fundraised) plus airfare (approximately \$800)

Sign Up: 2026 Mustard Seed Mission Trip Registration

This opportunity is open to all students 15 and older, including current seniors.

Mustard Seed Communities partners with vulnerable populations around the world, offering hope, support, and practical assistance to those most in need. This experience is more than travel — it is an invitation to make a lasting impact and to encounter God's heart for the vulnerable.

Spaces are limited. Please email [Ms. Dooling](#) with any questions.

## 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.



## SHOW YOUR PANDA SPIRIT

# TIME TO VOTE PANDAS!

Please take a moment to VOTE for Sarah Young as Basketball Player of the Week! She's put in the work, shown leadership, and represents NDA with pride — let's show our support [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Vote now and spread the word! Panda Nation, let's show up!

Thank you for helping celebrate our Pandas who continue to use their gifts and talents so well.





## IMPORTANT REMINDER

### LUNCH MENU

As we move through the semester, we kindly ask parents to take a moment to review their daughter's lunch account balance and make payments as needed. Keeping accounts up to date helps our cafeteria operate smoothly and ensures every student can easily enjoy the meals they choose each day.

Notices will be sent out by the end of the week, but checking now is a great way to stay ahead.

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

A promotional graphic for a winter sale. It features a grey background with a teal border and a starburst in the top left corner that says "40% OFF". The main text reads "BIG Winter SALE" in large, bold letters. At the bottom, a box contains the text "Biggest sale of the year! January 7-10, 2026 Save 40% off everything". A small logo for "SCHOOLBELLES" is in the bottom right corner.

40% OFF

# BIG Winter SALE

Biggest sale of the year!  
January 7-10, 2026  
Save 40% off everything

SCHOOLBELLES®

## SAVE 40% ON EVERY ITEM

### SCHOOLBELLES SALE

Mark your calendars for January 7–10, 2026. **Schoolbelles** is offering an incredible 40% off everything — their highest discount of the entire year. Every item is included, from daily uniform essentials to outerwear and accessories.

# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

## FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

### PANDA ATHLETICS



#### **Bowling**

##### Panda Bowlers Shine at Western Bowl

This past Saturday at Western Bowl, our Pandas delivered an impressive performance, finishing in the top five out of 23 teams. Junior Haley Pelstring earned a spot on the All-Tournament Team, and our freshman bowlers turned in several strong games, contributing to the team's success.

The team returns to competition on Thursday as they take on Beechwood. Congratulations to our Panda Bowlers for an outstanding showing.

#### **Archery**

##### Archers Look Ahead After Weather Delay

Due to this past weekend's snowstorms, our Archers were unable to compete. They look forward to getting back into action this weekend at Dixie Heights.

Best of luck to all of our competitors as they prepare for the upcoming tournament.



#### **Basketball**

##### Pandas Continue Strong Momentum

Although Saturday's game was canceled due to weather, the Pandas' most recent outing resulted in a strong win over Holy Cross. Junior Sarah Young led the team with 17 points and 13 rebounds, powering NDA to victory.

On Monday night, both the Freshman and JV teams earned wins over Bishop Brossart, continuing the program's solid week of play.

The Pandas are back on the court tonight against Cooper, with Freshman at 5:00, JV at 6:00, and Varsity at 7:30.

Let's go, Pandas.



#### **Swimming and Diving**

##### AquaPandas Make Waves at Nicole Tucker Invite

The AquaPandas competed Saturday at the Nicole Tucker Invite at the Kenton County Aquatic Center, where many upperclassmen were away preparing for Silver Bells. With the spotlight shifting to the younger swimmers, the team rose to the occasion, finishing third out of 13 teams.

##### Top-Three Finishes:

- Freshman McKenna Bien – third in the 100 Backstroke
- Sophomore Abby Carnes – second in the 50 Freestyle and second in the 100 Freestyle
- Sophomore Makayla Kleman – third in the 200 IM
- 200 Freestyle Relay (Makayla Kleman, freshman Marcy Franxman, junior Danaka Tucker, and McKenna Bien) – third place

The AquaPandas earned 16 personal bests in 24 swims and posted six new relay bests. Congratulations to the team on a strong weekend of competition.



# 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.



### GSE & GSA APPLICATION TIME

## REMINDER FOR NDA STUDENTS

Just a reminder to apply for the KY Governor's School for Entrepreneurs and the KY Governor's School for the Arts! These summer programs are amazing opportunities to learn and live on a college campus. These programs also qualify you for scholarship money at many different colleges and universities in the state of Kentucky. Please see the padlet for links to helpful presentations created by Mrs. Slone to help with your application. I highly encourage you to take advantage of these amazing opportunities!

**GSE Application closes on January 16th, 2026 (9th, 10th, 11th graders)**

**GSA Application closes on January 18th, 2026 (10th and 11th graders)**

To learn more about these opportunities, check out this [quick reference guide](#)



# Advancing the Mission



## NOTRE DAME ACADEMY ANNUAL FUND

# 120

*Years of More*

### MAKING AN IMPACT EVERY DAY

## THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generosity, the Annual Fund continues to shape an education that is accessible, faith-filled, and transformative for every Panda. Your support brings our Catholic mission to life through retreats and service, equips our dedicated educators with the tools and training they need, and helps keep tuition affordable for all students.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, your participation matters more than ever. This is a meaningful time to make your Annual Fund gift and an opportunity to increase your impact even further with a matching gift.

Many employers match charitable contributions made by employees, retirees, or even spouses. A matching gift can double or even triple your support for our students in just a few minutes. To see if your employer participates, [click here](#).

Thank you for helping strengthen faith and ensure every Panda continues to thrive.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE HERE**

*Doubling, or Tripling, your  
impact is easy!*

### The Matching Gift Process



## Alumnae Rosary



### JOIN US ALUMNAE ROSARY

Tomorrow, December 18 at 9:30 a.m., Notre Dame Academy will host an alumnae rosary in our Mary, Mother of the World Chapel. This monthly tradition offers an opportunity to pause, pray and reflect together as a school family.

All are welcome to attend and join the NDA community in prayer.



## 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 17-19	Mid-Term 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
January 29	IDEAL Space Blessing and Ribbon Cutting
January 30	Talent Show