

# **Dear Parents,**

I am happy to share some exciting updates with you. Last week, we welcomed Mrs. Trish Miller as our new president, marking a significant milestone in the history of Notre Dame Academy. We are thrilled to embrace this new chapter and eagerly anticipate the fresh perspectives and insights Mrs. Miller will bring to NDA. While I am grateful for the privilege of serving as principal/interim president over the past two years, I am excited to return to my primary role as principal. I am incredibly proud of the progress we have made during this time and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated faculty and staff for their unwavering support.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Janet Carl back to Notre Dame Academy. Mrs. Carl is serving as our new Athletic Director, bringing with her a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of our school community. Some of you may remember Mrs. Carl from her previous role as the golf coach at NDA from 1999-2001. Since then, she has led the University of Cincinnati golf program in addition to being the women's golf coach at UC. Mrs. Carl's extensive coaching experience combined with her understanding of the NDA community, uniquely positions her to lead our athletic department. Her proven ability to inspire student-athletes, instill a strong work ethic and promote character development aligns perfectly with the values and mission of Notre Dame Academy.

In addition to a few new faces on campus, regrettably, we are also saying goodbye to Mrs. Amber Grayson. Mrs. Grayson served as assistant principal at NDA from 2012-2021 and has served as the associate principal since then. Although we are sad to see her go, we wish her well in her new role Vice Principal of Academics at St. Ursula Academy. Please join me in expressing our heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Grayson for her dedication to NDA and the positive influence she has had on our school.

Our campus is buzzing with activity once again as the Athletic Dead Period has come to an end. It's wonderful to see our students and future students engaging in various activities and athletic camps throughout our campus, enjoying the camaraderie and the joys of summer.

Just yesterday, several of our incoming freshmen joined us for Mass and a summer service event. It was heartwarming to witness these young women embracing the spirit of being a Panda - coming together through the sacrifice of the Eucharist, working diligently to help those in need, enjoying one another's company and sharing a meal. Together, they are celebrating their Catholic faith and learning the importance of making a positive impact in the world, which lies at the core of the NDA sisterhood.

Please take note of our upcoming Parent Nights in August. Freshman Parent Night will be held on Tuesday, August 8 at 6:30 p.m., and Sophomore/Junior/Senior Parent Night will take place on Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there, as these events provide valuable opportunities for us to connect and share important information.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Jack Van Handy

In Notre Dame.

Mr Jack VonHandorf



# From the Desk of Mrs. Trish Miller



Dear NDA Parents,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the new President of Notre Dame Academy. I am honored to join this incredible institution founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame well over a century ago. It is a privilege for me to have the opportunity to carry on the important work of the Sisters and to partner with you in the Catholic education of your daughters.

First and foremost, I want to express my deep appreciation for the trust you have placed in Notre Dame Academy to provide your daughters with a premier Catholic education. As a parent myself, I understand the significance of the role parents play in their children's educational journey and I am committed to working collaboratively with you to ensure your daughter's success, growth and well-being.

Notre Dame Academy has a strong academic tradition of empowering young women to make a difference in the world. It is my utmost priority to continue fostering NDA's core values while striving for continuous improvement and innovation. I am dedicated to nurturing a culture of faith, integrity and compassion that will shape the hearts and minds of our students and create an environment where your daughters can flourish.

I encourage your active involvement in your daughter's education and invite you to participate in various school activities, especially the Parent Nights in August to which Mr. VonHandorf referred in his letter. Notre Dame Academy is more than just a school; it is a vibrant community of dedicated educators, supportive staff and engaged parents. I suggest that you stay informed about school policies, procedures and important dates by keeping up with this newsletter, the Panda Press Weekly. Your engagement and support are invaluable in creating a thriving school community at NDA.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or the dedicated faculty and staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Our doors are always open and we welcome your input and involvement. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you and working collaboratively to create an exceptional educational experience for your daughters at Notre Dame Academy.

Proclaiming God's goodness and provident care,

Trish Miller

NDA President

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# NDA GOLF OUTING

NDA's annual golf outing is July 28 at Kenton County Golf Course. Enjoy the 18 hole event or come out for the fun 9 hole social that day to support NDA athletics. Register **HERE**.



# **Student Life**

# FINAL FORMS

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

# **FINALFORMS ACCOUNTS**

All parents and students are expected to use FinalForms and complete their updates for next year by the first day of school. If participating in athletics, this will include needing a valid, signed KHSAA physical uploaded in Final Forms before participating in any athletic activities.

If you do not have a FinalForms account, please create one account at: <a href="https://notredameacademy-ky.finalforms.com">https://notredameacademy-ky.finalforms.com</a> and follow the prompts to create the parent account, begin your daughter's account and sign your forms. Your daughter's NDA gmail should be used when setting up her account. Once the parent/guardian creates the account, the student will be prompted in her NDA email to submit her forms. Please note: if you have already turned in your daughter's immunization record, you do not need to upload separately. School personnel will upload for you.

#### If you already have an account for a returning student:

Login to your account and click MY STUDENTS to get started. Make sure you are updating information for the 23-24 school year.

If you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Kirn (kirnl@ndapandas.org) in the front office or Mrs. Colvin (colvins@ndapandas.org) in the athletic office.



# **UNIFORMS FOR 2023-24**

Pandas should keep the following dress code in mind when shopping for uniforms this summer:

- a gray uniform skirt or uniform slacks. Skirt should extend be low student's fingertips when arms are fully extended at one's side.
- · a white or light blue banded Notre Dame Academy polo shirt
- solid white, gray, black or navy blue socks
- appropriate shoes that have a back to them
- name tag/lanyard (students will receive these on the first day of school)

Optional items are many, so please review to the handbook for more information. One example is gray, black, or navy blue leggings that are close fitting and tapered at the ankle. These can be worn under the uniform skirt for an extra layer.

Visit <a href="http://www.schoolbelles.com/myschool/M37/s1935">http://www.schoolbelles.com/myschool/M37/s1935</a> if you need to purchase uniform pieces for this school year.





#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# **GET READY FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR**

<u>CLICK HERE</u> to access NDA's Google calendar which is accessible through the school's website. Mark your calendars for the following important dates over the summer and before school begins on Wednesday, August 16, 2023:

July 18 Freshman Parent Meet and Greet

31 Freshman iPad set up

August

1-4 Freshman iPad set up

8-11 Bridge Program

8 Freshman/New Student Orientation

Freshman Parent Night

9 Sophomore/Junior/Senior Parent Night

16 First Day of School



#### FYI

# SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Athletic Dead Period has passed therefore our office is back to summer office hours of 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. through July 31. On August 1 we will be back to our regular office hours of 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



#### SEE YOU IN AUGUST AT...

# **PARENT NIGHTS**

Please take note of our upcoming Parent Nights in August:

- Freshman Parent Night will be held on Tuesday, August 8 at 6:30 p.m.
- Sophomore/Junior/Senior Parent Night will take place on Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m.

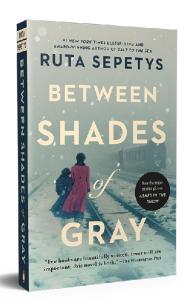
We hope to see you there, as these events provide valuable opportunities for us to connect and share important information.



#### PANDA GEAR

# **BAMBOOTIQUE**

Don't forget to get your Nike golf shirts, hats and visors for NDA's Golf Outing on July 28! It' all on sale <u>HERE</u>.



#### 2023-2024

# **COMMON READER BOOK**

Notre Dame Academy has selected next year's Common Reader book which is *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys. *Between Shades of Gray* tells a story from 1941 where fifteen-year-old Lina Vilkas is arrested by the Soviet secret police and deported to Siberia with her mother and younger brother. The author's website says Lina is a young woman who fights for her life, vowing that if she survives she will honor her family, and the thousands like hers, by burying her complete story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Lina's writings and drawings chronicle her fight for survival, her difficulty accepting help from a Soviet guard she's supposed to hate, and her struggle to retain faith in mankind amidst the terror. We look forward to bringing this story to all students, faculty and staff at Notre Dame Academy and celebrating the book's theme when we return next fall.



#### **NEW CLUB SPORT!**

### NDA FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM

The Cincinnati Bengals are investing to bring football to more women, especially high school female student-athletes, through the fast-growing and fun sport of flag football. Notre Dame Academy is proud to announce that Flag Football will start as a club sport this upcoming school year alongside the five schools in the Greater Girls Catholic League in Cincinnati.

This fall, we will hold an event at Paycor Stadium to give girls exposure to Flag Football, and then the first-ever girls high school flag football season will begin in the spring 2024. Coach Patrick Strickley is thrilled to work with NDA's Club Flag Football team this year!



#### LET'S DANCE

# **DANCE PANDA AUDITIONS**

Please see Ms. Pauly's dance audition information below:

When: Thursday July 27 at 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Where: auditorium

What to expect: Please arrive on time and warmed up, wearing clothes/ shoes you feel comfortable dancing in. A short pom and kick line routine will be taught. There will be an opportunity to demonstrate special skills (tumbling, flexibility, leaps, turns, kicks, tricks etc). You will also be asked about your potential availability to participate in 2023/2024 Dance Pandas performances. During the auditions you will perform in small groups, so please note you may be finished earlier than 1:30 p.m.

How to sign up: Email the Dance Pandas coach, Ms. Pauly at paulyh@ndapandas.org no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday July 26. Upon emailing, you will be sent a video breakdown of the audition routines, a scoring rubric and a list of 2023/2024 Dance Pandas performance/rehearsal schedule. Please email Ms. Pauly with any other questions!



#### **BEST SCHOOL SPIRIT**

# **CONGRATULATIONS PANDAS!**

Notre Dame Academy has been selected as a winner of the 2023 Family Choice Awards in the School Spirit (High School) category! NDA and all winners and finalists of the Family Choice Awards will be featured in the cover story of Cincy Magazine's upcoming summer issue.

Go Pandas!



#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# **WAY TO GO FRESHMEN!**

Congratulations to incoming freshmen Paola Spicuzza and Ashlynn Ruyak! Each of these new Pandas recently received the Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship for having made an impact on the people around them.

The mission of the Aubrey Rose Foundation is to help families caring for children with life-threatening illnesses with our focus being on the family unit. They strive to lift families from life's complexities during this difficult time by providing emotional and financial support. The Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship is available to students who plan to attend a private high school in the Cincinnati / Northern Kentucky and Southeastern Indiana area.

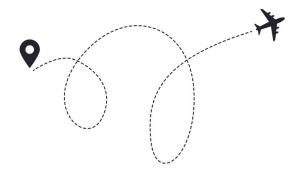


#### **GO CLAIRE!**

# **PANDA CHAMPION**

NDA's Claire Monahan competed in the 5k Open Water Central Zone Championship and not only placed first against 77 women, she beat all 67 men as well!

She is now qualified for Nationals where she will compete in Florida in April of 2024! We are so proud of her hard work and dedication!



#### **SEEING THE WORLD**

# TRAVELING PANDAS

This summer, our students had the incredible opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them with three distinct international trips, each offering a unique and enriching experience.

NDA students traveled to Italy, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. Each trip had a difference purpose and learning objectives but all were worthwhile!

You can read more about each of these trips and see where are Pandas are headed next on the Traveling Pandas page of our website <u>HERE</u>.



#### **GREAT OPPORTUNITY**

# SND SUMMER RURAL HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE

This summer the Sisters of Notre Dame brough their schools from all regions of the country together to offer them a healthcare experience at St. Claire Regional Hospital near Morehead University June 18 - 22. NDA's Lucy Bailey, Annie Bowman and Mia Kent were selected to go to Morehead, KY to paticipate in healthcare educational activities through St. Claire Regional Hospital.



#### **REGISTER TODAY**

# PANDA SKI TRIP

Registration is now open for NDA's Ski Trip to Colorado (January 11-15)! Fill out the form <u>HERE</u> to save your spot!! Registration is first come, first serve and will be open until August 30 (or earlier if all the spots have been filled, then a waitlist will be created).

# Freshman Service Day



making A Difference!









# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



#### IT'S NOT TOO LATE

## NDA SOCCER CAMP

It is not too late to join us for the 5th to 8th Grade Soccer Skills Camp. The camp will be taught by our NDA Soccer Coaches and our Panda Soccer Athletes

Grades - 5 to 8 Location: NDA

Date: July 13th (one day only) Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$35

Soccer 5th-8th Grade - Register Here



#### **RIGHT ON TARGET**

# **ARCHERY NEWS**

A total of 28 Campers attended the NDA Archery camp held from June 12 - June 14. Several members of the Notre Dame Archery Team provided instruction in safety, care of archery equipment, shooting technique, scoring, and tournament procedures. The campers as well as the instructors demonstrated great enthusiasm and proficiency throughout the camp. In addition to shooting targets, camp activities included shooting balloons, balloon painting, relay races, basketball and volleyball. Camp ended with an archery tournament at which each camper earned a much deserved medal.



#### IT'S NOT TO LATE!

# **HONOR AN ATHLETE**

It's not too late to honor an athlete with a life size cutout at this year's golf outing!

Get a life size cutout of your student athlete! This is a great way to honor our Panda athletes and can be used at senior nights, graduation parties and more! Parents can send their daughter's photo to colvins@ndapandas.org.

#### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

# NDA GOLF OUTING

Thank you to all of Our Event and Special Sponsors for our 2023 OrthoCincy - Notre Dame Academy Athletics Golf Outing July 28, 2023!

TITLE SPONSOR - ORTHOCINCY
Tumbler Sponsor - Custom Cabinetry & Countertops - Granite World
Green Sponsor - Sterling Cut Glass
Cart Sponsor - Ft. Wright Shell
Cart Sponsor - Bilz Insurance
Lunch Sponsor - Grant County Drugs
Blue Sponsor - Moreen and Dave Nienaber
Blue Sponsor - RovIQ
Blue Sponsor - Schoolbelles

#### It is not too late to show your support!

- · Join us by registering your foursome today
- Sponsor the Golf Outing There are many different sponsorship opportunities available... there is a level for everyone's budget!

## **Register or Sponsor Here**





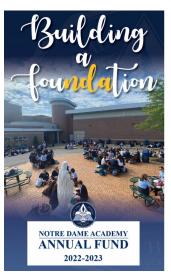








# **ADVANCING THE MISSION**





#### **GOAL MET!**

### THANK YOU

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents who contributed to the 2022-23 Annual Fund!

This year, we made the decision to eliminate our student fundraiser to allow our students to focus solely on their academics and we set an ambitious Annual Fund goal of \$385,000. We are happy to report that we exceeded our goal thanks to the generosity of our NDA community, including 24% of current parents.

Your support enables us to enhance academic programs, provide state-of-the-art resources, offer enriching extracurricular activities and maintain a nurturing and inclusive environment that fosters the holistic development of our students.

Thank you for creating a solid fouNDAtion for our current students and generations of students to come.

Together, we are making a difference!



#### JOIN US

## **SUMMER ROSARY**

Don't miss our Summer Alumnae Rosary tomorrow (Thursday, July 13) at 9:30 a.m. in Marian Circle at NDA. ALL ARE WELCOME!



#### ALUMNAE MENTOR PROGRAM

# ATTENTION CLASSES OF 2024 AND 2025

Our Alumnae Mentoring Program gives Juniors and Seniors an opportunity to learn more about the real world experiences of professionals in the student's career field of interest and have a potential career shadow day. For the 2023-2024 school year our Alumnae office will match you with an Alumnae Mentor and from there you will have monthly contact with your Mentor to talk about: Life, School, College Choices, College Applications, Career Paths.

If you have not already completed the application and are interested in the Alumnae Mentoring Program for this coming school year, including returning participants, you must complete the application for the 2023-2024 school year before Friday, July 21. You can find the application HERE.

# **Important dates**

July 18 Freshman Parent Meet and Greet

July 31 Freshman iPad set up

August 1-4 Freshman iPad set up

August 8-11 Bridge Program

August 8 Freshman/New Student Orientation

Freshman Parent Night

August 9 Sophomore/Junior/Senior Parent Night

August 16 First Day of School!

August 18 Opening Mass

August 26 Student Council Fall Mixer

September 4 NO SCHOOL: Labor Day

September 6 Parent Mini-Night

September 8 Picture Day

September 15 Mid-quarter

Club Orientation

September 20 Super Day: JR Practice ACT

SR College Planning

FR/SO CERT Test

September 22 Fall Sports Pep Rally

Playing for a Purpose VB Game