



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

January 30, 2026

"I ask for you a year overflowing with the graces and blessings of heaven for your spiritual progress; then good health for the accomplishment of God's will."

St. Julie Billiart

Dear NDA Community,

Greetings on this cold January day. As I write, I find myself looking out at snow-covered hills, filled with awe at the beauty of God's creation. The month of January also finds us looking toward the new year with great hope, and there are many things to look forward to at NDA.

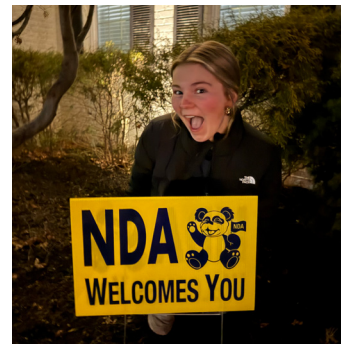


We began the new year by celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. I have come to deeply appreciate our school's devotion to the Blessed Mother. This devotion is not simply expressed in words or our mission statement; it is lived each day by our community and has inspired me to grow in my own understanding of Mary's virtues. On January 1, we were proud to share artwork created by junior Iris Laile, beautifully capturing Mary's tender love for the baby Jesus.

We began the month gathered for a New Year's Mass offered especially for the loyal benefactors whose generosity sustains our community and helps us continue our vision of forming transformative women leaders who make a difference in the world. This year, our Annual Fund has been a particular focus, as it plays a vital role in keeping tuition affordable for families and in strengthening the academic excellence that defines an NDA education.



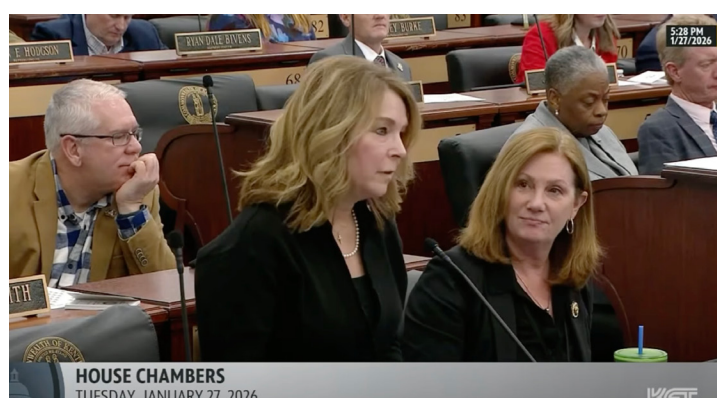
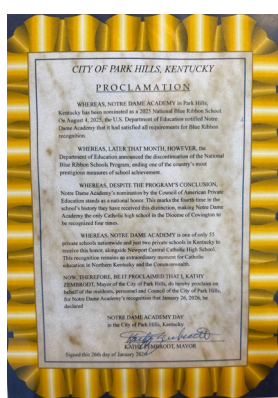
This month, we welcomed members of the Class of 2030 and their parents for HSPT Results Night, honoring our scholarship recipients beforehand. I especially cherish the opportunity to speak with our future Pandas, whose excitement represents the bright future of our community.



We also looked ahead with great anticipation during the Ribbon Cutting and Blessing of the 1906 IDEAL Innovation Space. This new space honors the pioneering spirit of the Sisters of Notre Dame while providing our students with meaningful, real-world opportunities to create, collaborate, and think critically. It has been a great joy to see our students and teachers using the space in engineering, art, and even religion classes.



We were deeply honored to welcome Park Hills Mayor Kathy Zembrodt, NDA Class of 1970, who presented a proclamation recognizing our historic fourth Blue Ribbon School of Excellence achievement. Additionally, State Representative Stephanie Dietz, District 25, read a citation at the Kentucky State Capitol acknowledging this honor. We are truly grateful for this continued recognition of NDA's commitment to excellence.



The cold weather and snow did not dampen our excitement for Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community," beautifully reflects who we are. At NDA, we take seriously our calling to draw students into a deeper relationship with Christ through our Catholic faith. Catholic Schools Week gives us a special opportunity to express gratitude first to the Sisters of Notre Dame, our founders and living examples of faith in action, and to our dedicated faculty, staff, parents, past parents, alumnae, and supporters. At the heart of all we do are our students, whose enthusiasm, compassion, and faith inspire us daily and give us great hope for the future.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Grateful for the community that sustains our mission!

As this first month of the new year draws to a close, I pray that you and your families are warmed by God's abiding love and grace. May the months ahead be filled with peace, joy, and many blessings.

In Notre Dame,

Lauren Hitron

Lauren Hitron
President