



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

We continue this Lenten Season to prepare ourselves for the gift of the risen Christ on Easter. As you know, our students have many opportunities at NDA to deepen their relationship with God, especially during Lent. I would hope that our students take advantage of the opportunity to go to our weekly Masses on school day afternoons (there is a schedule listed below) or attend our daily decade of the rosary sometime before Easter. Through participating in these opportunities, they will further understand what it means to live the mission of Notre Dame Academy.

Many of our students are living the mission of NDA all year long through their service outreach to our community. In today's Panda Press Weekly you can read a reflection by one of our NHS students who recently volunteered with a group of her NDA peers to provide a meal for the residents of the Ronald McDonald House. I am very proud of the way our students take the time to make a difference in the lives of others.

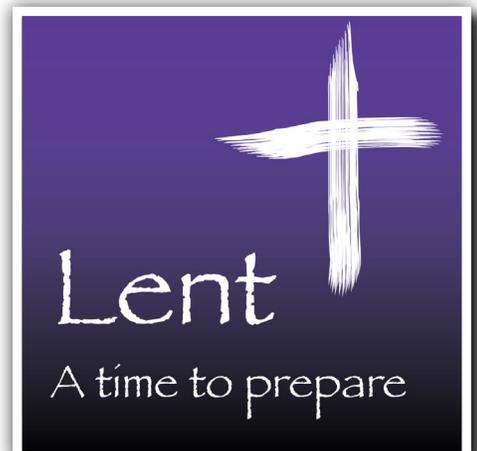
Please note the important financial information listed below. Applications for Financial Aid and Work Study are due April 15. Financial assistance requests increase each year. We cannot stress enough the importance of getting your application in early. Late applications run the risk of financial aid funding being exhausted.

I am grateful for the many ways we are connected through our mission at Notre Dame Academy. In the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame, our goal is to produce young women who have a fundamental desire to seek excellence and make a difference not only for themselves, but also for the world at large. We do this by offering challenging academic programs and a multitude of co-curricular opportunities that include community service, student life, fine arts, leadership and athletics. We are blessed with the support of so many parents, families, alumnae and friends of NDA who deeply believe in our mission. We appreciate their continued support in our efforts to provide a premiere 21st century education rooted in the Catholic faith.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission and please know I am grateful to partner with you in this important work!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf





STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

Safe Environment Training

The Diocese of Covington is committed to creating and building safe environments in its schools and parishes. On Thursday, March 21, all Notre Dame Academy students will attend a mental health presentation facilitated by Mrs. Emily Klueh -- NDA alum and social worker currently serving at the University of Michigan.

All students will participate in this program unless Notre Dame Academy receives written notification from a parent or guardian indicating that permission is not granted for his or her daughter to participate. To opt out of the Safe Environment Training, please provide written notification by Friday, March 15 to the attention of Mrs. Amber Grayson, Assistant Principal.

Next Year's Calendar

[CLICK HERE](#) to access NDA's Google Calendar. The dates and times for next year's events have been entered. Other pertinent information is listed below for quick reference.

2019-2020	August 19	First Day of School
	October 11	No School: Professional Development Day
	October 18	1st Quarter Ends
	November 1	No School: All Saints' Day
	November 27-29	No School: Thanksgiving Break
	December 9	No School: Immaculate Conception
	December 18-20	Exams
	December 23	2nd Quarter Ends
	December 23 - January 3	No School: Christmas Break
	January 20	No School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
	February 17	No School: Presidents' Day
	March 13	3rd Quarter Ends
	April 9 - 17	No School: Easter Break
	May 18 - 20	Senior Exams
	May 22	No School: Graduation
	May 25	No School: Memorial Day
May 26-28	Exams	
May 29	4th Quarter Ends/Cleaning Day	

Sophomore Ring Ceremony

The Sophomore Ring Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the theatre. This is an opportunity for the sophomore class to come together and celebrate their class unity through the blessing and reception of their class rings.

Parents are invited to celebrate this event with their daughters. If you ordered your ring through a company other than Herff Jones or are using an heirloom ring - please have this ring sent to the school office no later than Friday, March 29, so it can be included in the blessing and distribution. If your daughter did not order a ring - she is still welcome and encouraged to join us in this celebration. A reception will follow the ceremony in Alumnae Hall. An invitation with an RSVP will be sent to your daughters, so we can receive an accurate count. This will be due on March 27. If you have any questions - please contact Ms. Madeline Tucker at tuckerm@ndapandas.org.

GROW CLOSER TO GOD THIS LENT ◀



Lent is a time to prepare ourselves for the gift of the risen Christ on Easter. To help our students deepen their relationship with God this Lenten season, **Fr. Hennigen will be here on the following dates during Lent to celebrate Mass after school. All are welcome to join us. Mass begins at 3:10 p.m. and ends by 3:40 p.m.**

Tuesday, March 12 - room 102

Monday, March 18 - Room 102

Wednesday, March 27 - Room 102

Wednesday, April 3 - Chapel

Thursday, April 11 - Chapel

Also, we pray a decade of the rosary to “Notre Dame” Our Lady everyday at NDA at 7:25 a.m. **On Mondays and Fridays we pray the decade in the Reflection Room (301) and on Tuesdays and Thursday we pray in Heritage Hall.** We welcome students, faculty and staff. Please make an effort to join us this Lent!



IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INFORMATION ◀

Work Study Job Application Deadline: April 15, 2019

Financial Aid Applications & Academic and Tuition Assistance Scholarships

The application for work study jobs is available on the website [HERE](#) and is due by **APRIL 15, 2019**.

Financial aid applications are also now open and will remain open until **APRIL 15, 2019**.

If you are in need of financial assistance OR are looking to do work study the application with FACTS must be completed before anything else. Financial assistance requests increase each year we cannot stress enough the importance of getting your application in early. Late applications run the risk of financial aid funding being exhausted. You can access the Financial Assistance page of the website [HERE](#).

We are currently accepting applications for Academic and Tuition Assistance Scholarships. Applications can be found on the website [HERE](#), and are due in the front office no later than April 15, 2019.



ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK BEFORE THE PRICE GOES UP! ◀

The 2018-19 NDA yearbook, “New and Forever”, can be purchased now for the pre-order price of \$60. March 21 is the last day to buy one at that price; yearbooks are \$70 after that. Buy your daughter’s copy today at jostens.com or by following this link. (https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1069982/Notre-Dame-Academy/2019-Yearbook/20180825044300310151/CATALOG_SHOP/)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



TASTE OF HOPE ◀

NDA's National Honor Society was awarded a service grant this year and used the funds to provide a meal to the residents of the Ronald McDonald House. Below is a reflection from a NHS student Megan Bezold who served the Taste of Hope meal with other NHS students this past weekend.

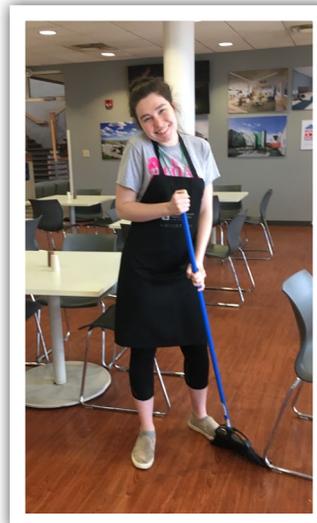
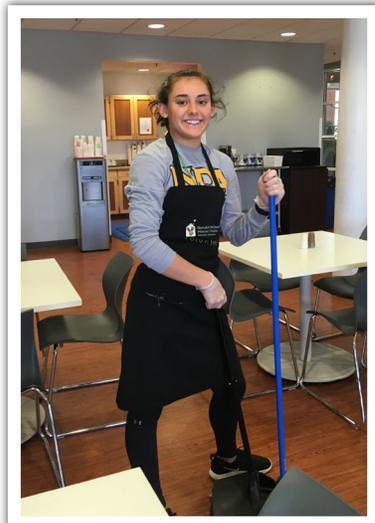
"This past weekend, I was given the opportunity to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald with the Taste of Hope. When there, the other girls and I worked on preparing a brunch for all the guests staying at the house. We cooked bacon and hash browns, cut up strawberries and melons, and made waffles and muffins. After preparing all the food, we served the guests and then ate with them.

To be honest, I was a little hesitant about this service experience because it started so early. However, I really enjoyed working at the Ronald McDonald House. It was so sweet to see the little children come through the line with a huge smile on their face simply because they saw the waffles they were going to eat for breakfast. One little girl came through the line wear-

ing Peppa Pig pajamas and laughing with her little brother. She was adorable to watch and interact with.

In addition to all the joy I received from serving the kids and their families, I also realized something important. I realized that I was so fortunate to be able to help this charity and these families out. I was not there to receive medical treatment and I was not going to be living there for the next few months. I remember this one family in particular who came down for brunch and they were all wearing matching sweatshirts and t-shirts in support of who I assume was their sister/daughter. It hit me, when serving that family, that not only did the parents have to move from their home to the Ronald McDonald House for their child, but also the siblings had to move too. Their life was changed and they had to leave their family as well as their friends. They were here with no support system.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve these families and to slightly alleviate their troubles through service. It was so fulfilling to be able to offer support for everyone who walked through that line even if it was only through a smile while handing them their food."





MEGAN HEEB

MARCH STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Notre Dame Academy Senior, Megan Heeb, who has been selected as March's Student of the Month. Megan's Government teacher, Mrs. Stratman, says Megan's "total embrace of learning" is helping her become fully alive as celebrated in this year's theme. Megan "is constantly questioning and seeking knowledge to grow her experiences. I can really see Megan being an alum who truly makes a difference in our world." Thank you, Megan, for becoming fully alive and contributing positively to Notre Dame Academy and beyond!

SOMETHING ABOUT MEGAN

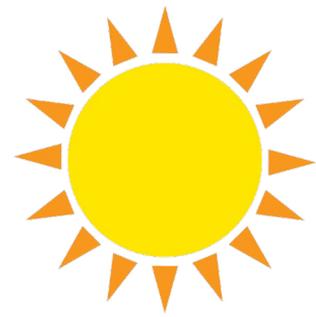
Textiles teacher, Mrs. Brennan, say she has "witnessed Megan's friendliness, kindness and dedication to students and to NDA for three years. Megan is always prepared for class and asks intelligent questions. I can tell she is thinking and invested in her studies.."



Megan plans to pursue foreign affairs and relations and politics next year. Megan is very interested in different cultures and credits her Current Issues class for encouraging her to "dig deeper and look at all angles" of an issue.



Ms. Hilbert says she can always count on Megan to "be on task and provide productive classroom discussions. She is a hard worker and loves to learn. She is a student who wants to know the why behind a problem, instead of just finding the answer."



NDA SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES ◀

NDA has all sorts of Summer Enrichment Opportunities. You can find updated information about High School Summer Studio Art 2019 and Junior High Summer Studio Art Class 2019: Screen Printing on-line [HERE](#).

ATTENTION SOPHOMORE PARENTS ◀

Just a friendly reminder that your sophomore's 15 hours of service is due on March 20. Many have already completed their work - but there are still quite a few who haven't even begun. I have been meeting with the sophomores individually to make sure they have a plan. Please encourage your daughter to set up their service over the next couple weeks! Monday's day off would be the perfect opportunity to complete some service work. A few reminders - all service MUST take place with a non-profit organization and must be logged onto x2vol.com within 2 weeks of serving!



DO YOU WONDER WHAT THE SOUTHERN BORDER IS LIKE? ◀

This summer Sister Maria Francine is facilitating a trip there to see the situation and speak with those involved, particularly immigrants and border patrol. This trip is for adults, not students. The Columbian Missions in El Paso who have a shelter there provides talks with immigrants, border patrol and relief workers. Sometimes we need, when possible, to take an initiative to be informed. Access [THIS LINK](#) for details. You may contact Sister Maria Francine at stacymf@ndapandas.org.



HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR GERMAN STUDENTS FOR FALL 2019 ◀

NDA is in the process of recruiting international students as part of our Fall 2019 enrollment. We are again working with our sister school in Germany (Liebfrauenschule Vechta). At this time we are seeking families who would consider hosting the German students for the 2019 fall semester. Please email Mrs. Katie Caccavari at caccavarik@ndapandas.org, if you would be interested in more information about this opportunity. Your reply is not a commitment but would help us to know which families would consider supporting our international student enrollment by serving as host families.



WORK STUDY AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LONGSHORE DINING HALL ◀

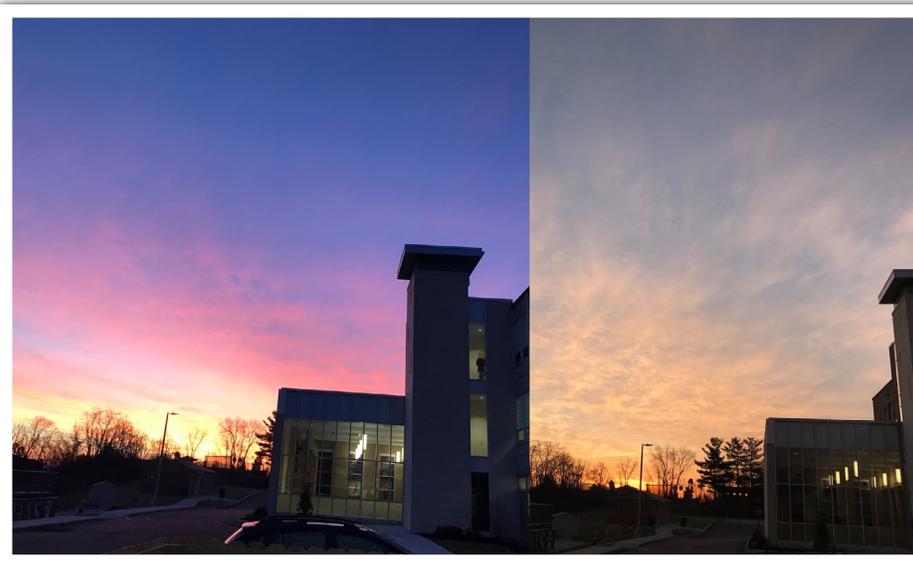
Do you have just one day a month to volunteer for two hours in the NDA cafeteria? Helping out is neither difficult nor time-consuming and our current volunteers have fun visiting the school and seeing their daughters, granddaughters and friends. Volunteers are also welcome to stick around after their two-hour shift for lunch with “the crew”. Grandparents in particular seem to love this job, so please consider asking your daughter’s grandparents if they would like to help out. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Brungs at 859.292.1856 or brungsk@ndapandas.org. The schedule is online and you can sign up [HERE](#).

ALSO, we have a Work Study position open in the Longshore Dining Hall dishroom as well. If you are interested in this position, please contact Karen Brungs at 859.292.1856 or brungsk@ndapandas.org.



DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ◀

Parents, did you know that NDA’s daily announcements are posted each day on our website? You can find them [HERE](#).



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING CENTER PIC OF THE WEEK ◀

Mrs. Benkert is capturing all sorts of interesting photos in the CLC. Check out what a difference a few moments make in our early morning CLC sunrise views!



Drug Free Clubs of America (DFCA) has been very busy at NDA!

On Wednesday Feb. 27, DFCA members got to wear their new club t-shirts, and were treated to Hot Cocoa and Coffee in the morning. On Wednesday March 6th, Junior Ellen Barlage and Senior Annie Gronotte were selected as winners of the DFCA Prom Ticket Raffle! On Friday March 8th, all NDA Freshmen members of DFCA enjoyed fresh hot pizza from Snappy's as a reward for being the class with the highest percentage of membership, at 95%. We are very proud of all our Drug Free Club members! Keep making good choices!



Parent Speaker Series

PARENT SPEAKER SERIES

Parents from Notre Dame Academy are invited to join with parents from St. Ursula Academy on Thursday March 21 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the St. Ursula Academy Theater for a presentation on "**Parenting in a Partying Culture.**" Compass Point Counseling and comedian Thom Cox from Family Matters will co-present as they explore what teens are really facing in today's world.

Thursday, March 21

If attending, please register in advance using this link: [Parenting in a Partying Culture](#)



GET READY FOR THE FINAL ROUND

Join GSA this Saturday March 16 at 2 p.m. for the [Get Ready For Final Round Webinar!](#) They'll walk through what to expect and how to prepare if you're a GSA finalist coming to auditions/reviews at Centre College on March 22-23. There will be ample time at the end for Q&A! Parents, finalists and educators are all welcome! You can also check out this [Handy Chart](#), the [Art Form Applicant's Guide](#), and some [Get Ready Videos](#).



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR NDA PARENT TOOLBOX?

Our [NDA Parent Tool Box](#) has some great articles!

Check out these wonderful tools to help with understanding and raising teenage girls!

Prom Headquarters

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
FOR JUNIOR & SENIOR
PARENTS & STUDENTS

Dear Students and Parents,

This year's Prom will be held on Friday, March 22 at the Music Hall Box Office Ballroom in Cincinnati. Immediately following is our very own After Prom right here at NDA! This event will last from 11:30 p.m.-3:30 a.m. All Juniors and Seniors are invited to attend After Prom regardless of whether or not they have attended Prom. We have a fun evening planned for your daughters and dates, including Cincinnati food favorites, prizes, inflatables, a photo booth, a tattoo artist, a henna artist, and our very own hypnotist!

RESERVATIONS

Starting on Friday February 22 and ending on Friday March 15, you can click on this link <https://www.cognitofirms.com/NotreDameAcademy1/2019NDAProm> to make reservations for Prom and After Prom.

There are a few things to remember when making your reservations for Prom and After Prom:

- If attending Prom, please make sure to select 1 or 2 guests and completely fill out all information requested online
- If attending After Prom, please make sure to select 1 or 2 guests and fill out all information requested
 - o Your gift will be an After Prom t-shirt so make sure you select a size for YOURSELF
 - o You may also purchase an additional t-shirt for your date but the cost for this will be \$10
 - o Reservations must be made by March 11th in order to receive a t-shirt – NO EXCEPTIONS
- Make your payment for both Prom and After Prom online
- If for any reason you have to leave Prom or After Prom early you must have a note from your parent.

PRIZES

Parents we are asking for your help by donating gift cards or cash to buy gift cards to make the evening more fun and exciting for the girls. Some ideas would be Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, Movie Theaters, Sephora, Lush, Bath & Body, Panera, Chipotle, Spotify, iTunes, etc. All donations can be dropped off at the school office, attention Kristy Seither. For the students, anyone who brings in a donation will be awarded a Panda Buck (valid for a FREE ice cream), compliments of Mr. VonHandorf!

VOLUNTEERS & FOOD DONATIONS

Parents we need many volunteers to make After Prom a success! Please consider signing up to give a couple of hours of your time and/or to donate food or gift cards. We are using SignUp.com to organize our sign-ups. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to our After Prom invitation page SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/go/TbkaJzR>
2. Enter your email address – you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password.
3. Sign Up! – Choose your spots – SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders.

NOTE: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Michelle David at michelledavid888@gmail.com and she can sign you up manually.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support!

The After Prom Committee

GO FOR GULU ◀

Get ready for this year's Go 4 Gulu 5K race on Saturday, April 13, 2019. Money raised from this event will benefit the organizations - Unified for Uganda and the Sisters of Notre Dame's Ugandan Mission. Unified for Uganda financially and emotionally supports the educational journey of the destitute children in Gulu, Uganda while the SND Ugandan Mission supports the educational experience of young women in our sister school in Buseesa, Uganda.

If you want to participate in the 5K, [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register. The cost of the event is \$15 per person and a race day t-shirt is guaranteed if registered by March 29. Go 4 Gulu!!

GO 4 GULU 5K!!!

Wanna get some exercise and help the Uganda Pandas???

Well you can!!!

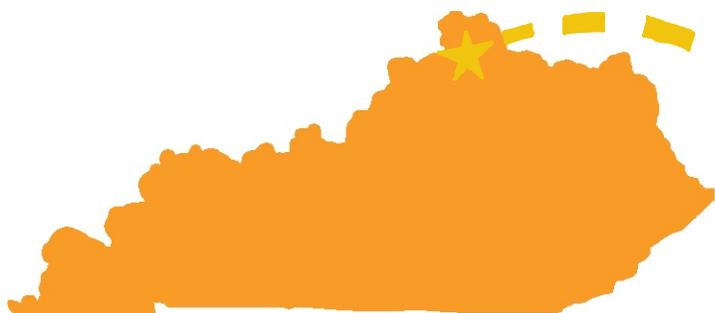
Event: Uganda Pandas 5k

Location: Notre Dame Academy

Date: April 13, 2019

Time: 8 am runners 8:20 am walkers

Cost: \$15



You don't have to run!

You can walk, jog, etc.!

MENTORING



ALUMNAE MENTORING ◀

Our alumnae mentors have sessions set up for once a month to speak and interact with Seniors and Juniors. Free coffee and donuts for the students to enjoy while listening to their professional advice! **Here is what to expect for future dates:**

- No Session on March 13 (that was previously scheduled)
- Women in the Work Place Wednesday, March 20
- Critical Thinking/Decision Making Skills Wednesday, April 10
- Speed Mentoring Session Wednesday, May 1



2018-19 College Rep Visits at NDA

Throughout the school year many college representatives visit NDA to speak with students during lunch periods. Below is a list of upcoming visits.

March

14 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY 

20 UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA 



SAVE THE DATE! ◀

Save the Date for the 2019 Autumn Gala on Saturday, October 12. Invitations will be mailed later in the fall, but it's not too late to mark your calendars.



THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

Thomas More University is the Catholic Liberal Arts University of the [Diocese of Covington, Kentucky](#). Inspired by the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, TMU challenges students of all faiths to examine the ultimate meaning of life, their place in the world, and their responsibility to others. TMU has strong academics, small class sizes, generous financial assistance, and nationally ranked ath-

letics - right in your back yard! Join the TMU family and visit campus for Preview Day on Saturday, March 23, 2019. Details at tmuky.us/preview.

Stay up-to-date with all things TMU by visiting thomasmore.edu and following @ThomasMoreKY on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

► Important dates

March 13	JETS-TEAMS Competition at University of Cincinnati National French Exam National Latin Exam Alum Mentoring Session
March 14	Pi Day
March 16	8th Grade Conferences for incoming students
March 18	Body Peace Week
March 19	Panda Preview Night
March 21	Mental Health Presentation
March 22	No School - Prom
March 30	Chapel Blessing
April 2	Sophomore Ring Ceremony
April 3	Faculty Meeting
April 5	Student Council Mixer
April 7	Orange and White Game
April 10	Seniors to the Play
April 11	Alumnae Dinner Theatre
April 12-14	Spring Play
April 16	Baby Day
April 17	Mid quarter Holy Week Prayer Service
April 18	Easter Break Begins
April 29	School resumes
May 3	May Crowning Choral Concert
May 4	Math and Language Placement Test for incoming 8th graders

COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

Check out the **Community News** section of NDA's website for news about.

- Work Study positions available
- Blue Ribbon Sunday
- Upcoming Blood Drive
- Part-time help needed
- Catholic Conference of Kentucky - Take Action on Educational Choice!
- Host Family Program

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

