



THE *nda* LIFE

**SPECIAL
BACK TO SCHOOL
EDITION!**

Dear Parents,

In order to ensure that our NDA community is well prepared for the first day of school this Tuesday, we thought it would be a good idea to share a special “Back to School” edition of the Panda Press Weekly today. Below you will find important information regarding uniform expectations, the student bulletin on Padlet and an explanation of our theme for this school year. I also wanted to share some information regarding a community improvement project that will affect NDA.

You have more than likely seen stories in the news regarding the Brent Spence Corridor improvement project over the last several years. The project includes constructing a critical companion bridge to the existing Brent Spence Bridge, improving traffic flow on the existing bridge, and constructing improvements to the interstate network throughout an eight-mile corridor from Dixie Highway in Kentucky to the Western Hills Viaduct in Ohio. As you can imagine, the bi-state project will affect property adjacent to the improvement project and I wanted to make you aware that it does impact Notre Dame Academy.

To put it in perspective, the project would require approximately one-third of an acre of our 25-acre property to accommodate the expansion of the corridor and would create an easement on our property as well. While the property that is impacted by the project does not include our school building or any of our athletic facilities, the increased traffic volume is a concern.

The Brent Spence Corridor improvement project is nationally significant and we understand the positive impact it will have on our region however, our responsibility is student learning and the safety of our school community. We therefore must look critically at this project and focus on how it could affect Notre Dame Academy.

Unfortunately we do not have central air conditioning throughout our entire school building and we currently use window units to cool our classrooms during warmer months. Being next to the expressway already causes sound issues for us at times and additional lanes on I-75/I-71 and the removal of a significant amount of vegetation on the south side of our property will certainly exacerbate that problem. Moving forward we are exploring our options as to how we can best mitigate the additional noise ensuring that our classrooms continue to have an atmosphere conducive to learning.

I will continue to provide you with updates to this project as the information becomes available. In the meantime, please know that we will continue to address this situation with student learning and the safety of our community at the forefront. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have about this.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you as you drop of your daughters on Tuesday!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf

See you Tuesday Pandas!

BACK TO SCHOOL INFO

PANDA DRESS CODE

UNIFORMS EXPECTATIONS FOR 2022-2023

Approved Uniform pieces are listed below as stated in our Student/Parent Handbook:

Notre Dame Academy has a school uniform that consists of:

- a gray uniform skirt or uniform slacks (the skirt or pants must fit properly, be zipped and buttoned, hemmed appropriately and free of stains, rips, and/or holes). Students are required to obtain a new skirt or pants if it no longer zips, has tears, holes, or stains. Please note: Skirt should extend below 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



Optional items that may be purchased and worn with the uniform include:

- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy pullover sweater
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy cardigan sweater
- **a navy blue Notre Dame sweater vest - new item!**
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy sweatshirt (available for purchase through Schoolbelles and NDA's Bambootique)
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy fleece
- a navy blue blazer with NDA's emblem for special occasions such as Mass, award ceremonies, etc.
- gray, black, or navy blue leggings
- black dress slacks for designated events

If you are still waiting on uniform pieces through Schoolbelles and worried they may not arrive in time, please contact the school office.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

UPDATED DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

In preparation for the new school year, parking pass sales are now open for seniors and juniors. We will continue the staggered dismissal (implemented fall 2021) as well as traffic light support from Park Hills Police Department. Seniors (and their carpools) will be the first group to dismiss at 2:59 p.m., juniors (and their carpools) at 3:03 p.m. and sophomores and freshmen at 3:06 p.m.

This year, we have created grade level zones in the parking lot. This means student drivers will only be allowed to purchase a parking spot in their grade level's assigned zone. See diagram below.



Attention parents and/or guardians who pick up their daughters: you are asked to park in the gray areas while you wait for their dismissal. The Theatre lot as well as parking spots 1-21 are reserved for those who are picking up. We thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Discovering our purpose. Transforming the world.



*Be who God meant
you to be and you will
set the world on fire.*

- St. Catherine of Siena

EDUCATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR THEME

If you were at one of this year's Parent Meetings last week, you were introduced to our theme for the school year, *Discovering our Purpose. Transforming the world.* Please note that our school theme at Notre Dame Academy is more than a catchy phrase and colorful graphic. Each year, we base our school theme on one of the four Educational Principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Sometime during the summer, our Campus Minister, Bridget Price, meets with our Peer Ministers to discuss the principle we will be celebrating and they collaborate about theme ideas as well as a special quote that coordinates with the theme.

This year our school theme is based on Fourth Educational Principle of the Sisters of Notre Dame, *An Integrated Education for Transformation.* Our peer ministers felt like it was important that our theme focused on the importance of discovering God's plan for each of us and how we can make a difference in the world once we come to realize that purpose. The NDA seal was used in the graphic to draw attention to the flame within our seal which is a symbol for academic learning and its flame indicates that it burns for the good of others. Additionally, the lamp takes on additional significance for Christians as a metaphor for the gospel (Psalm 119:105 says, Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.)

We look forward to celebrating this theme throughout the school year and incorporating it into our daily lives in the NDA community!

PANDA PADLET

STUDENT BULLETIN

Each Sunday throughout the school year, our students will receive the NDA Student Bulletin for the week. It's in the a Padlet format that we thought our parents might enjoy seeing [HERE](#).

Important dates

August 15 Holy Day: Feast of the Assumption

August 16 1st Day of School (ADJ)

August 19 Opening School Mass (ADJ)

August 25 PPT begins for SR/JR

August 26 StuCo Fall Mixer (Neon Night)

August 30 PPT begins for SO

September 1 PPT begins for FR

September 5 No School: Labor Day

September 7 Common Reader Day (ADJ)

Parent Mini-Night (in-person)

September 9 Picture Day

September 13 St. Pius X Shadow Day

September 15 Blessed Sacrament Shadow Day

September 16 Club Orientation (ADJ)

Mid-quarter

September 24 Homecoming at NDA