

The Notre Dame Life

Building confidence, celebrating excellence, and enabling a future without boundaries.

2024-2025

NDA Profile:

Everything a future Panda needs to know about Notre Dame Academy!

At an All-Girls School:

Check out all of the advantages of single gender education!

Join the Club:

The complete list of amazing co-curricular opportunities at NDA!

**Your
Journey
Begins
Here!**



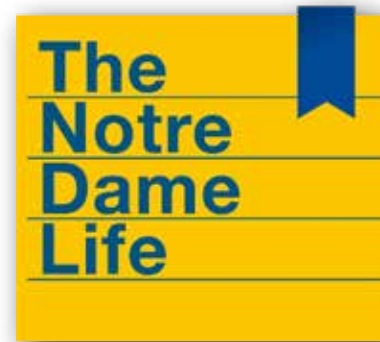
Special Panda Poster Inside!



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
Educating Women to Make a Difference

Our Mission

*Notre Dame Academy,
a Catholic high school
dedicated to Mary
and committed to
academic excellence,
exists to educate
young women to
make a difference
in the world.*



2024-2025

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Join our Contact List!





NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference

Greetings Future NDA Families,

Welcome to Notre Dame Academy! As the only all-girls Catholic high school in the Diocese of Covington, NDA is deeply rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church and the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame. For 118 years, we have proudly provided a transformative education to young women, preparing over 10,000 alumnae to make meaningful contributions in a wide variety of vocations and professions, both locally and beyond.

At NDA, we are committed to a holistic approach to education that nurtures confident, lifelong learners. Our mission is to empower each student to discover her unique gifts and use them to make a difference in the world. Our dedicated faculty and staff create an environment that encourages intellectual curiosity and meaningful learning experiences, ensuring our students are well-prepared for success beyond high school. Whether in the science lab, on the basketball court, in the theater, or serving within the community, our students have endless opportunities to grow and thrive.

We offer a rigorous pre-college curriculum complemented by a wide range of co-curricular activities in the arts, athletics, service, and student life. Our innovative use of technology enhances the learning environment and helps students develop the 21st-century skills needed to succeed in an ever-evolving world.

As the only all-girls school in the Diocese of Covington and Northern Kentucky, NDA provides a unique opportunity for young women to excel in an environment free from traditional stereotypes. Research and experience consistently affirm the benefits of a single-gender education, and at NDA, we ensure that our students are empowered to achieve success in traditionally male-dominated fields and leadership roles, unlocking their full potential.

Notre Dame Academy offers exceptional educational value, especially when compared to other single-gender Catholic schools in the Greater Cincinnati area. We remain committed to keeping tuition affordable, and through grants, scholarships, and our unique work-study program, we provide financial assistance options for families concerned about costs.

As someone who has experienced the profound impact of NDA personally, both as an alumna and a parent of two NDA graduates, I have seen firsthand how the Academy prepares its students to succeed in all aspects of life. The legacy of Notre Dame Academy, its values and its commitment to shaping young women is something that continues to inspire me every day.

Every student who walks through NDA's doors arrives with hopes and dreams. Our mission is to equip each young woman with the confidence and skills to bring those dreams to life. We would be honored to welcome your daughter into the NDA community and look forward to guiding her on this exciting journey of growth and discovery.

In Notre Dame,

Jane Kennedy Kleier '83
Interim President/CCO

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A Notre Dame Academy education is different. We call that difference... *the difference.*

Notre Dame Academy is more than just another high school. In our rich history spanning 118 years, there are many ways in which NDA has developed some very distinctive differences that put our education ahead of the rest.

We invite you to see for yourself the difference a Notre Dame Academy education can make.

Rich in Tradition...

As the ONLY single-gender Catholic high school for young women in the Diocese of Covington, Notre Dame Academy is a community of lifelong learners sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame. This rich education, grounded in the SND tradition and charism, has served young women of our area for over a century.

Spiritually Sound...

Notre Dame Academy is a Catholic high school grown in the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame. At NDA, we celebrate our Catholic identity every day by living the Gospel message of Jesus through kindness and generosity to others, respect for life, community service, and striving to use our God given gifts.

Academic Excellence...

At Notre Dame Academy, our highly qualified teachers engage and challenge the mind and creativity of each student. Our goal is a holistic education that develops every young woman's God given gifts by preparing her to be a lifelong learner in the 21st century.

Challenging Curriculum...

Not all college preparatory curriculums are created equally. Notre Dame Academy is a college preparatory high school with a challenging curriculum that prepares its students not just for college admission but also for success in college coursework and in their chosen fields. Academic preparation includes opportunities in and out of the classroom.

Single Gender Advantage...

The advantages young women receive in a single-gender environment have been confirmed by both research and experience. Our students are empowered to transcend traditional stereotypical roles and quickly become fearless, curious, and enthusiastic in their learning. They are more comfortable just being themselves and take pride in who they are as students and as young women. At Notre Dame Academy, our students are uniquely prepared to manage leadership positions in society.

Just the Right Size...

With an enrollment that averages 540 students, Notre Dame Academy can afford a level of commitment and attention to our students that you will not find in a larger school. That ideal enrollment size at NDA also allows us to provide our students with a rigorous curriculum and a full complement of co-curricular sports and clubs that you cannot find in a smaller school. Not only can our students receive a great education but they also have a multitude of opportunities to get involved in that complement the classroom experience.

Dynamic Diversity...

At Notre Dame Academy, our student body reflects the world that we live in and is enriched by our diversity. We welcome students of every culture, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic background, and faith tradition. By expanding our students' knowledge and understanding of the diversity in our world, we encourage an awareness of the global community.

The Notre Dame Life...

Notre Dame Academy is committed to preparing students not just for college and a career but also for success in life. We uniquely do this by building confidence, celebrating excellence and enabling a future without boundaries.



at an

All Girls' School...

Young women are empowered to take leadership roles

Girls are given  more opportunities

Girls understand their value and capabilities in ways that have nothing to do with how they look or whom they date

A young woman can find her voice


Stereotyping for young women is reduced

Girls receive higher SAT scores

There is a culture of achievement where academic progress is tremendously important

GIRLS ROCK!

Girls are more likely to attend graduate school

Young women learn that there is enormous  POTENTIAL and POWER in being a girl!

Time in the classroom is spent learning

Young women have higher academic confidence, higher confidence in mathematical ability and computer skills, and greater interest in engineering careers

There is greater academic engagement

Girls are more likely to get involved in co-curricular opportunities



THE CASE FOR GIRLS' SCHOOLS

At Notre Dame Academy, it's all about girls! It has been since 1906, when the Sisters of Notre Dame first opened the doors to Notre Dame Academy. Although there was no research to support the value of an all-girls school a century ago, the sisters were keenly aware of the tremendous advantages. Today we have both extensive research and 118 years of experience to support the countless benefits of girls' schools.

All-girls' schools offer enormous value to their students, value that cannot be duplicated in other school settings. NDA students are empowered to transcend traditional stereotypical roles and they quickly become fearless, curious, and enthusiastic in their learning. At NDA girls are the first ones to raise their hands in class, they are the leaders of the school, and those planning Masses and service projects. Every science research student, academic team captain, writer, singer, artist, and athlete is a girl. They are more comfortable being themselves and take pride in who they are as students and young women. At Notre Dame Academy, our students are uniquely prepared to manage leadership positions in society.

Recent research by the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS) shows unequivocal support for the value of an all-girls educational environment. In particular, students at all-girls schools report:

- Having higher aspirations and greater motivation
- Being challenged to achieve more
- Engaging more actively in the learning process
- Participating in activities that prepare them for the world outside of school
- Feeling more comfortable being themselves and expressing their ideas
- Showing greater gains on core academic and life skills
- Being and feeling more supported in their endeavors



In another national study commissioned by the NCGS, the statistically significant edge girls' school graduates have over their coed peers is clear. The report also notes that girls benefit from a single-gender education in the following ways:

- Greater academic engagement
- Higher SAT scores
- Greater interest in graduate school
- Higher academic self-confidence
- Greater interest in engineering careers
- Greater political engagement

The voices of young women are not silenced in the educational environment of an all-girls' school. There is no reason for concern about teachers calling on boys more often than girls. At an all-girls' school, young women learn self-confidence and leadership skills, and they excel in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and science.

At Notre Dame Academy, we strongly believe in the advantages of a single-gender learning environment for young women. While research supports our convictions, we have over 10,000 other reasons for our way of thinking - our graduates. NDA graduates are poised, confident, and prepared for a life of service to others centered in the Catholic faith. They are empowered, loving, and intellectually competent women committed to using their God given gifts to make a difference in the world.

Welcome to The Notre Dame Life!

Notre Dame Academy is dedicated to providing a holistic education to the young women of our community that develops their God given gifts and prepares them to be lifelong learners. That's the Notre Dame Life!

Notre Dame Academy is committed to preparing students not just for college and a career, but also for success in life.

We uniquely do this by building confidence, celebrating excellence and enabling a future without boundaries.

Notre Dame Academy is a school full of energy and our students are the sparks of that energy through their involvement at NDA. In addition to a challenging academic program, Notre Dame Academy students are offered a multitude of co-curricular opportunities.



The life of a Notre Dame Academy student encompasses service, leadership, skill building, and spirituality.

Getting involved enables our students to find friends with similar interests and experiences, gain and exercise leadership skills, and discover new passions and abilities.



The Notre Dame Life includes the opportunity to participate in community service, over thirty clubs and organizations, fine arts, performance arts, a first rate athletic program including intramurals and many annual NDA events.



As a school rooted in the Catholic tradition, spirituality is at the heart of a Notre Dame Academy education.



Students at NDA are provided with many opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection. They attend Mass, participate in morning rosary services, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and attend an annual retreat.

Our service program at Notre Dame Academy puts Gospel values into action.



Through our service efforts with approved social service agencies, schools, and organizations, students become socially aware servants of Christ.

They quickly learn the significance of making a difference in the lives of others and become part of the legacy of NDA students and graduates who carry their experiences beyond their years at Notre Dame Academy.



Welcome to the
Sisterhood!

Top 10 Reasons to Attend... NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

1. + Catholic Identity
Live the Gospel message of Jesus using your God-given gifts!
2. Academic Excellence A+
Develop to your full potential and prepare for a successful future!
3. ♥ Spirit of Service to Others
Learn the skills and ideals to make a difference in the world!
4. Highly Qualified & Dedicated Faculty
Challenge your mind and develop critical thinking skills!
5. Single Gender Education ✿ Girl Power!
Become empowered and transcend traditional stereotypical roles!
6. Rich Heritage
Grow in the charism and tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame!
7. 1:1 Computing with iPads 😊
Become a lifelong 21st-century learner!
8. ✿ Renowned Fine Arts Program
Engage in the wonder and beauty of creative expression!
9. Successful Athletic Program ⚽
Contribute positively to your physical well-being!
10. Over 30 Co-curricular Opportunities
Discover new passions and develop leadership skills!

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@ NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

A Tradition of Success



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Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Notre Dame Academy has had a long tradition of success in STEM related areas. We realize that to be effective in the 21st century, our students must be able to create, evaluate, and effectively utilize information, media and technology. We believe that in this globally competitive information age, teaching our students the skills to navigate complex work and life environments is critical to their success.

1:1 iPad Initiative

The launch of NDA's 1:1 iPad Initiative in 2012 was a significant moment in our school's history as the first school in Northern Kentucky to fully integrate one-to-one computing in the high school classroom. The use of personal mobile devices has expanded different types of learning experiences in the classroom and has allowed NDA to stay current with educational innovations that promote student achievement and success.

PANDA PRIME TIME

At NDA, we are a community of lifelong learners with a strong commitment to challenging students to do their best and providing them with the tools they need to be successful. Several years ago, we incorporated Panda Prime Time at NDA: a flexible 30-minute time period that offers students opportunities for enrichment, support, collaboration and personal learning. We believe that this added period twice a week is a prime time for students to learn how to balance and organize time, leading them to success in college and beyond.

INSPIRING INNOVATION: Empowering Students to Excel

For years, Notre Dame Academy has been at the forefront of educational technology and a leader in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. We are committed to equipping students with the essential skills needed to thrive in the 21st century, recognizing that collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking are vital for success in today's global society. Through our innovative approach to education and the integration of cutting-edge technology into the classroom, NDA ensures that student-centered learning flourishes, empowering students to take ownership of their educational journey.

At NDA, we understand that mastering content alone is no longer enough to prepare students for the complexities of the modern world. We have moved beyond traditional STEM education to focus on the next level of innovation, equipping our students with the critical thinking, problem-solving and creative skills needed to succeed in a tech-driven and rapidly evolving environment. By embracing modern technology, students actively shape their learning while teachers guide and support the process, opening the door to unique opportunities for growth.

We also recognize that not every student may have a passion for STEM itself. At NDA however, we believe that STEM skills such as problem-solving, analytical thinking and innovation, are universally valuable, no matter a student's specific interest. Whether a student's passion lies in the arts, literature, business or any other field, our curriculum ensures that they gain the critical STEM-related skills embedded within their chosen areas of study. By integrating these competencies into all disciplines, we enable students to develop practical, future-ready abilities through their own unique talents and interests, ensuring they are well-prepared for the challenges of the modern world.

For young women who have participated in STEM programs during grade school, NDA offers a strong and clear path forward. Our rigorous curriculum, combined with a focus on innovation, ensures that students build on their foundational skills while preparing to lead in dynamic fields.

As we continue to build on our legacy of excellence in the STEM areas, we are excited to introduce new initiatives aimed at further developing these essential skills. Committed to fostering a culture of innovation, Notre Dame Academy is proud to equip our students to face the challenges of the future with confidence and thrive in whichever direction their journey takes them.



Meet Edgar... NDA's Therapy Dog!



In 2023, something paw-sitively exciting happened at NDA - we welcomed a furry and fabulous addition to our community, Edgar, the Therapy Dog! Edgar is no ordinary pup; he's a six-year-old Golden Retriever who has been a familiar face at NDA for quite some time. When his handler, the amazing Mrs. Julie Neubacher, joined our NDA nursing team, it was only natural for Edgar to become a part of our school family too!

Edgar and Nurse Julie make up a specially trained, evaluated, and registered dream team through Pet Partners – the gold standard in the Animal Therapy Field. So what's the secret sauce to their magic? Well, research has shown that visits from therapy animals like Edgar can work wonders, reducing worries, anxieties, pain and even feelings of social isolation.

You can catch Edgar strutting his stuff at school at least twice a week. Students are more than welcome to drop by the nurse's office before school, during lunch and during study hall or Panda Prime Time to spend some quality time with our fluffy therapist. And here's a fun twist – with permission from their teachers, Edgar and Nurse Julie can even join in on classes with a teacher's permission.

We understand that not everyone is a furry fan, and some of our students might have allergies or fears of our four-legged friend. No worries at all! Students can opt-out of any voluntary visits with Edgar and we completely understand.

So, here's to Edgar, the doggone best therapy pup around, and to Nurse Julie, his fantastic human partner. They're here to make our NDA days brighter, one tail wag at a time!



Join the Club!

Do you like to sing, dance, paint, write or play sports?

At Notre Dame Academy, there's something for everyone!

Check out all of the clubs and activities you can get involved in at NDA!

- Academic Team
- Art Club
- Bambootique Club
- Bible Study
- Book Club
- Civic Engagement Advocacy
- Creative Writing Club
- Dance Pandas
- Drug Free Club
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Environmental Club
- Entrepreneurship
- Family System - Family Leadership
- Finer Things Club
- Football Team Club
- French Club
- Girls' Athletic Association (GAA)
- Girl Up
- Global Health Advocacy
- Green Dot
- Healthcare Professionals Club
- Hope Squad
- Intramural Volleyball League
- Investment Club
- JETS
- Latin Club
- LIFE Club
- Mock Trial
- Pandaveristy
- Pickle ball Club
- Sign Language Club
- Ski Club
- Spanish Club
- Special Needs Awareness Center (SNAC)
- Student Council
- Teen Leadership Club for Health and Wellness
- Textiles Club
- UgaNDA PaNDAs

At Notre Dame Academy,

we are all part of a

family!



At Notre Dame Academy, we're always striving to grow, learn and embrace new ideas that enhance our students' experience. One of the most exciting innovations in recent years is the Family System, which was introduced two years ago and has quickly become a core part of life at NDA.

The Family System is all about building connections, fostering leadership, and strengthening the unique sisterhood that makes NDA so special. It's designed to help students bond across grade levels, giving everyone the chance to meet and connect with peers they might not otherwise interact with.

NDA's four families are each proudly represented by a patron saint and a color: St. Joan of Arc (blue), St. Hildegard of Bingen (purple), St. Gemma Galgani (green) and St. Rose of Lima (pink). Students have had a blast decorating the hallways in their family colors, showing off their family pride in creative and colorful ways. Each family is made up of six homerooms, with students from all grade levels, and they meet twice a week to build relationships, collaborate, and work together as a team.

One of the most fun aspects of the Family System is the Family Competition that runs throughout the school year. Students can earn points for their family by excelling in academics (GPA), maintaining good attendance, participating in school events, serving the community, and more. At the end of the year, the family with the most points wins the Family Trophy and a visit from a coffee truck to celebrate their victory in style!

Our Pandas have embraced the Family System with open arms. It's not just about competition—it's about creating new friendships, feeling a sense of belonging, and building a supportive, family-like culture that makes NDA feel even more like home.

The Family System has truly become one of the highlights of NDA life, and we can't wait to see how it continues to bring our students closer together!

St. Rose of Lima- She is the patron saint of Latin America and the Philippines. She lived a life of simplicity and dedication to the poor and was known as a woman of integrity.

St. Hildegard of Bingen- She is the patron saint of writers and musicians and is one of only 4 female doctors of the Church. St. Hildegard was a renaissance woman who was involved in art, science, politics, and was the abbess of her convent.

St. Joan of Arc - She is the patron saint of France and of soldiers. Joan was not afraid to listen to God's call to lead the French army when no one else believed in her. She held on firmly to her convictions when the people around her were trying to sway her.

St. Gemma Galgani - St. Gemma Galgani is the patron saint of students and against temptations among other things. She experienced many health problems throughout her short life, but remained dedicated to the poor and had many mystical experiences.

NDA's Campus Minister, Mrs. Bridget Price, wrote a litany including all of the women we call upon to guide us as Pandas. We pray this litany as a school community at liturgies and other gatherings throughout the school year.

Christ, have mercy...Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy...Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us...Christ, graciously hear us.

Mary, Mother of God... Pray for us.

Mary, Mother of the World... Pray for us.

St. Julie Billiart...Pray for us.

St. Gemma Galgani...Pray for us

St. Rose of Lima... Pray for us

St. Hildegard of Bingen...Pray for us.

St. Joan of Arc...Pray for us.

All Sisters of Notre Dame... Pray for us.

All holy Men and Women...Pray for us.



ST. ROSE OF LIMA



ST. HILDEGARD OF BINGEN



ST. JOAN OF ARC



ST. GEMMA GALGANI

NDA

at a glance

2024-25

Mission:
 Notre Dame Academy, a Catholic high school dedicated to Mary and committed to academic excellence, exists to educate young women to make a difference in the world.

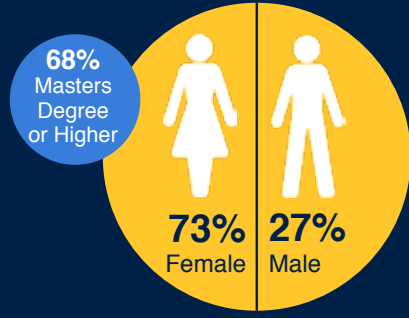
Single-gender
 College Preparatory High School

Enrollment
497

41 Faculty Members

Student to Faculty Ratio

Average Class Size
25



Tuition:
 In-Diocese \$10,410
 Out-Of-Diocese \$11,420



Total amount of financial assistance and tuition allowances given by NDA in 2023-24:
\$907,558.00

1:1 Computing

9 Academic Departments

14 SPORTS

19 AP Courses

9 Dual-Credit Courses

CLASS OF 2024 STATISTICS:

Average Weighted GPA
4.006

100% Graduation Rate
100% Graduates Attending College

25% Received half tuition or more in scholarships

Average ACT
24.9

\$18 million in Scholarships

Performed over 12,793 hours of service in four years at NDA

A GROUND BREAKING PARTNERSHIP: NOTRE DAME ACADEMY & THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY LAUNCH DIRECT ADMISSION PROGRAM



Together, Notre Dame Academy and Thomas More University are leading the way in Catholic education, creating new opportunities and ensuring that our students have every chance to thrive in a faith-filled, academically rigorous environment.

Notre Dame Academy is proud to announce an exciting new partnership with Thomas More University, designed to offer a seamless pathway to higher education for all NDA graduates, starting with the Class of 2025. This historic agreement makes NDA the first all-girls Catholic high school in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky to offer direct admission to a prestigious university like Thomas More.

At the heart of this partnership is a shared commitment to Catholic values and academic excellence. Notre Dame Academy and Thomas More University, both deeply rooted in the Diocese of Covington, have long collaborated in their mission to empower young women through education. With this new agreement, graduates from NDA who meet the program's academic and disciplinary criteria will be guaranteed direct admission to Thomas More, eliminating much of the stress and uncertainty around the college application process.

"We are thrilled to partner with Thomas More University to offer our graduates this incredible opportunity," said Jane Kleier, Interim President and Chief Communications Officer of Notre Dame Academy. "This direct admission program provides a streamlined path to a Catholic university that shares our mission of empowering young women to make a positive impact in the world."

For NDA students, this partnership represents a unique advantage. Beginning with the Class of 2025, students who meet all graduation requirements and maintain good academic and disciplinary standing will have direct access to Thomas More. Additionally, NDA students will benefit from the ongoing collaboration between the two institutions, including annual professional development opportunities for NDA's faculty and staff provided by Thomas More's School of Education.

"This partnership reflects our shared legacy of faith-based education," said TMU President Joseph L. Chillo, L.P.D. "We are honored to strengthen our bond with Notre Dame Academy and continue providing access to a Catholic higher education that empowers students to achieve both academically and spiritually."



The Stylish Panda...

NDA Pandas have been rockin' their dress code for over 118 years. While it has evolved over the past century, the fashionable gray uniform skirt has stood the test of time at Notre Dame Academy.

PANDA DRESS CODE:

Navy blue NDA cardigan sweater (optional)

Banded white or light blue polo shirt with NDA monogram

NDA Student ID with lanyard

The infamous gray uniform skirt

Additional optional items:
 Navy blue NDA pullover sweater
 Navy blue NDA sweater vest
 Navy blue NDA pullover fleece
 Navy blue NDA sweatshirt
 Black, gray or navy blue leggings
 Gray slacks

Socks

Appropriate shoes that have a back to them



A Few Tips From Your Panda Sisters

Future Panda FYI

iPad Cover



Get a good one. You will drop it at least once.

In Your Purse



You need these items to survive.

Homework



Do it every day.

Lunch



You will have more time & you can eat outside!

NDA Hairstyles



Ponytails and Buns (Headbands Optional)

Prayer



Ask for it when you need it.

Teachers



Respect them. They want you to succeed.

Makeup



Definitely optional!

Be Kind



God smiles on kindness.

Time Management



Panda Prime Time will help you with this!

Ice Cream



You can eat it every day!

Fourth Floor



The Sisters live there. Don't go unless invited.

Summer Reading



Don't procrastinate!

Mary



She's our loving Mother. Do what she did!

Mr. VonHandorf says...



"Make good choices!"



EMBRACE
Sisterhood

EMPOWER
Self
and
Others

EMBODY
SND-NDA
VALUES



Sister Mary Agnetis, SND: The Quintessential Servant Leader

by Nancy Stratman, NDA Archivist

An NDA historical snapshot:

How Sister Mary Agnetis' leadership secured NDA's future

When asked to describe a servant leader, one might hear phrases such as “one dedicated to the needs of others” or “someone who leads by example, not by mandate” or perhaps simply “someone who genuinely cares more for others than themselves.” Robert K. Greenleaf coined the term servant-leadership in his groundbreaking 1970 essay, “The Servant as Leader.”

Although this concept might have been a “groundbreaking theory” in the 1970s, it was merely the way of life for Sister Mary Agnetis as she took the reins of Notre Dame Academy in 1906. Seeing the value of every person, practicing the power of humility as a way of daily living, always listening with concern, trusting her students and faculty to do their best and showing through her words and actions the care and love she had for all she met, was simply the way Sr Mary Agnetis lived every single day during her 95 years on earth.

Born in 1879 as Anna Marie Schmitz, she was the 4th in a family which would eventually number 11 children. Her early childhood was spent in the neighborhood surrounding Philadelphia St. in Covington.

On February 2, 1897, at the age of 17, Anna entered the cloisters of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Later that year, on August 30, she took her holy vows as a novice and took the name Sr. Mary Agnetis. Two and one-half years later, Sr. Mary Agnetis pledged her life to God on January 3, 1900, as she pronounced her first vows as a Sister of Notre Dame.

In 1906, Sr. Agnetis was given the task of starting a high school, to reach beyond grade school and continue the educational opportunities for young ladies. This “task” would define the life of Sr. Agnetis from that point forward and would start her journey as a true servant leader for all of the young women whose lives she touched. Appointed as Instructor and Directress, Sr. Agnetis began with 6 students in the fall of 1906 and built an educational leadership legacy spanning 68 years and beyond. “From the moment Sr. Mary Agnetis started the high school, she became part of the soul of the academy, so dedicated to its growth materially, spiritually and academically, that she grew to become the personification of Notre Dame Academy. Every student who attended NDA from 1906 until well into the 1960s has gone away with a part of Sister’s personality, for these – the ideal of the Virgin Mary, the spirituality of vigorously living the Mass, the culture of the classics and the refinement of true Christian womanly living – are as much a part of the academy curriculum as they are of Sr. Mary Agnetis’s life.” (KY Post, Jack Wessling, 1960). In 1920, Sister Mary Agnetis was officially appointed as principal of the high school. During the next few years, Sister combined her love for leading and teaching the NDA students with her thirst for personal knowledge and self-improvement, as she became a student herself once again, and received her BA from Xavier University in 1924.

By the early 1920s, under the leadership of Sr. Mary Agnetis, Notre Dame Academy High School had secured its place as the premier educational facility for young women, a legacy that continues to this day.

If you would like to read the entire article about Sister Mary Agnetis, please go to our website at www.ndapandas.org, click on News then go to our Academy Archives and scroll down to see the full article from April 27, 2023.





KEEP

CALM

AND

PANDA

ON



The Compelling Return on Investment in Catholic Education at Notre Dame Academy

In today's world, the conversation surrounding education often centers on the investment made and the returns gained. When we take a closer look into the realm of Catholic education, particularly at Notre Dame Academy (NDA), the concept of return on investment (ROI) takes on an even more impressive meaning. Beyond the financial considerations, the ROI of an NDA education encompasses a wealth of lifelong benefits that shape individuals into empowered and compassionate leaders.

Consider this impressive achievement: According to the latest data, 84% of NDA alumnae graduate from college within six years, and 63% do so in just four years. This accomplishment reflects the strength and quality of the education provided at Notre Dame Academy. For comparison, the six-year graduation rate at public universities in Kentucky during the same period was 59%. This notable difference highlights NDA's exceptional preparation, empowering our graduates to complete their degrees on time—leading to meaningful long-term benefits and cost savings.

The transformative education offered at NDA however, provides more than financial incentives. A Catholic education at Notre Dame Academy presents a holistic approach to a college prep education, emphasizing not just academic proficiency, but also moral development and character building in the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame. At NDA, students are immersed in an environment that encourages them to find their God-given talents and explore their intellectual curiosity while also fostering values that transcend the classroom. This all-encompassing Catholic education equips graduates with the tools and core values needed to excel academically, professionally and ethically after graduation.

The personalized attention that NDA offers plays a pivotal role in shaping student achievement. Smaller class sizes and dedicated faculty enable students to engage deeply with subject matter and develop critical thinking skills that are essential in an evolving world. This individualized approach leads to a culture of support and mentorship, enabling students to reach their full potential academically and personally.

The ROI of an NDA education extends beyond the classroom. A recent statistic from the Class of 2024 speaks volumes – 25% of NDA's graduating seniors this past school year received half tuition or more in scholarships to the colleges or universities they are attending this fall. This accomplishment is not merely an academic accolade; it demonstrates how the values instilled at NDA propel students towards excellence in every aspect of life.

At times, those of us in the Notre Dame Academy community may take the ROI of an NDA education for granted. Excellence is something that we've come to expect from our students, faculty, staff and administration at NDA. It's important that we continue to appreciate the long lasting ROI that a Notre Dame Academy education provides, realizing that students graduate from NDA not only with degrees but with a sense of purpose and a commitment to making the world a better place. It's about individuals who possess not only knowledge, but the character to lead with empathy, compassion and integrity. It's about young women who are aspiring to use their God given talents to make a difference in the world.

The achievements of our alumnae and the successes of our students consistently affirm that a Catholic education at NDA is an investment that yields dividends far beyond the classroom. In a world where the value of education is often measured by immediate outcomes, the true return on a Notre Dame Academy education extends well into the future, shaping empowered young women who aspire to use their God-given talents to make a difference in the world.

Mark Your Calendar...

October 3	Panda Sneak Peek Information Session 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
October 22	Panda Sneak Peek Information Session 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
October 18-20	NDA/CCH Theatre Presents Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
November 10	Open House 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
November 16	High School Placement Test Prep Workshops 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
December 3	High School Placement Test Prep Workshop 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
December 14	HSPT - HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
January 1	FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment open for 2025-26 Academic Year
January 13	Academic Enhancement Program Information Session 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. Freshman Scholarship Recognition 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. HSPT Results Meeting 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Financial Aid Information Session 7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. NDA FRESHMAN PRIORITY APPLICATION PERIOD BEGINS
January 24-26	NDA /CCH Theater Presents Showcase - <i>The 1950s!</i>
February 7	CLOSE OF FRESHMAN PRIORITY APPLICATION PERIOD
March 8	FRESHMAN CONFERENCES
March 22	FRESHMAN CONFERENCES
March 18	Panda Preview Night 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
April 3-6	NDA/CCH Spring Musical - <i>Matilda</i>
April 6	Celebrate the Arts at NDA (For registered incoming freshmen) 1:00-4:00 p.m.
April 15	FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment Application & Work Study Deadlines
May 3	Algebra & Foreign Language Placement Tests (Optional) 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

For additional information regarding NDA's Admissions calendar contact NDA's Director of Enrollment, Katie Caccavari at 859.292.1829 or go to www.ndapandas.org.

CAMPUS MINISTRY & SERVICE PROGRAM



Campus Ministry

At the heart of Notre Dame Academy lies a commitment to nurturing the spiritual lives of our students, faculty, staff, and the wider NDA community. Through Campus Ministry, we offer countless opportunities for reflection, growth, and service, all centered on deepening our Catholic faith. In close partnership with the Religion Department, Campus Ministry enriches the NDA experience through liturgy, religious education, Christian service, and transformative retreat opportunities.

In the sacred space of our *Mary, Mother of the World Chapel*, students are invited to foster a deeper relationship with God, gathering for prayer services and Masses that unite our community in shared worship. For moments of quiet contemplation, the Reflection Space offers a serene environment for students to pray, meditate, and honor God in solitude.

Liturgical Activities

Our Catholic faith is woven into the fabric of life at Notre Dame Academy. Throughout the year, we gather as a community to celebrate the liturgy, uniting in worship to renew our spiritual commitments. In addition to school-wide liturgies, students and families come together periodically for family Masses in our school chapel, further strengthening the bonds of faith within our NDA community.

Prayer Opportunities

Prayer is the foundation upon which each day at NDA begins and ends. At the start of every school day and each class period, we pause to center ourselves in prayer, inviting God's presence into our daily lives. The NDA Chapel is open to students and faculty throughout the day, serving as a sanctuary for personal reflection or quiet prayer whenever time permits.

Mass is celebrated twice a week in our chapel, either before or after school, with weekly schedules shared with the student body. On non-Mass mornings, students are invited to gather at 7:45 a.m. for a decade of the rosary—an enriching way for many to start their day. Additionally, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered weekly during Panda Prime Time, and students have the opportunity to receive this sacrament twice a year with their religion classes. Adoration is also offered once a month during Panda Prime Time, providing further opportunities for spiritual reflection.

Christian Service

True to our mission of educating young women to make a difference in the world, Notre Dame Academy encourages all students to embrace community service as a central aspect of their spiritual journey. Through acts of service, our students learn to live out the Gospel message, fostering compassion and a heart for others.

Retreat experiences

Each year, every NDA student participates in an annual retreat, designed to deepen their understanding of themselves as members of the Body of Christ. These retreats offer students a chance to explore their roles within their faith communities and the wider world, while experiencing various forms of prayer and liturgy. The length and focus of these retreats evolve with each grade level, ensuring a meaningful and age-appropriate spiritual experience for every student.

Fine Arts



At Notre Dame Academy, the Arts Department is dedicated to nurturing the wonder and beauty of creative expression within each of our students. Whether through the soaring notes of vocal and instrumental music, the craftsmanship of hand-sewn quilts, the vibrant colors of studio art and design, or the magic of theater productions, we believe the arts enrich our lives and unlock the potential within us all.

NDA offers a rich array of opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the performing arts. From our renowned theater and drama programs to the graceful choreography of the dance team, the harmonious voices of the choral club and select choral ensemble, and the dynamic performances of our concert and marching band, there is a place for every student to shine on stage or behind the scenes.

Our Art Program invites students to explore their creativity through courses designed to build foundational skills and provide hands-on experience with a wide variety of media. From drawing and painting to digital design, our curriculum encourages students to discover their artistic voice and hone their talents.

All students are required to complete 1 credit in the Arts, though many choose to further explore their artistic passions by taking additional courses as electives. For those who wish to extend their learning beyond the classroom, many of our arts courses are paired with exciting performance opportunities, allowing students to showcase their skills and creativity in front of an audience.

If you are a student seeking a vibrant and varied fine arts experience, Notre Dame Academy is the perfect place to discover your potential and express your creativity.

NDA ATHLETICS



At Notre Dame Academy, we are proud of our rich tradition of excellence, both as an institution and in our athletic programs. NDA Athletics is dedicated to developing student-athletes who not only excel in their sport but are also prepared to make a meaningful difference in the world. Our commitment to academic success is seamlessly integrated into our approach to education-based athletics, where character and leadership are as important as competition and achievement.

As a member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA), NDA has a storied legacy of success, boasting 32 state team championships, 75 individual state titles, and 40 state runner-up titles. The majority of our students participate in one or more of our 14 sports teams, embracing the opportunity to grow as both athletes and individuals.

Last year, an impressive 68% of NDA students participated in athletics, with our student-athletes achieving an outstanding 4.03 average GPA. This combination of academic and athletic success has paved the way for many of our graduates, with an average of 15 student-athletes per year continuing their sports careers at the collegiate level.

At Notre Dame Academy, athletics is more than just competition; it's a foundation for building lifelong skills, teamwork, and leadership—all while striving for excellence both on and off the field.



Fall Sports

• Cross Country	Varsity, Junior Varsity	No Cut
• Golf	Varsity, Junior Varsity	
• Soccer	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman	
• Volleyball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman	

Winter Sports

• Archery	Varsity, Junior Varsity	No Cut
• Basketball	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman	
• Bowling	Varsity	
• Indoor Track and Field	Varsity	
• Swimming & Diving	Varsity, Junior Varsity	

Spring Sports

• Bass Fishing	Varsity	
• Lacrosse	Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman	
• Softball	Varsity, Junior Varsity	
• Tennis	Varsity, Junior Varsity	
• Track & Field	Varsity, Junior Varsity	No Cut

For 2023-24, the following sports did not cut: Golf, Bowling and Softball.



Academic Enhancement Program @NDA

Meet Our Team



Maria Graziani - Maria holds a B.A. in Middle Grades Education from NKU, with a focus on Language Arts and Science. She is passionate about supporting students with diverse abilities in both classroom and small group settings and has experience creating tailored interventions and personalizing instruction for different learners. Maria looks forward to collaborating with NDA teachers to help all students learn at high levels.



Emily Webster - Emily holds a B.A. in Business Management from the University of Louisville, an M.A. in Elementary Education from Xavier University, and an Intervention Specialist Mild/Moderate license from the University of Dayton. She is particularly interested in supporting students as they build executive functioning skills and providing content-area intervention support. Emily looks forward to building relationships within the NDA community.

Academic Enhancement Classes

The program consists of four courses designed to reinforce material presented in other disciplines. Students in the program meet with their AEP teacher and earn credit for completion. They will identify individual learning styles and utilize time management, organizational, and self-advocacy skills.

- Freshman Academic Foundations (5 days a week)
- Sophomore Academic Strategies (5 days a week)
- Junior Support Strategies (3 days a week, replacing a study hall)
- Senior Success Strategies (2 days a week, replacing a study hall)

Panda Prime Time

PANDA PRIME TIME is a 30-minute period that occurs twice a week at NDA. During this time, students can meet with a teacher for extra help, work on homework, make up a test, collaborate on a group project, work with the intervention specialists, or talk to a counselor. This period provides students with the opportunity to address their academic, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs.

Program Highlights

- Executive functioning
- Growth mindset and self-advocacy
- Test-taking strategies and preparation
- Study techniques
- Critical thinking, vocabulary expansion, grammar review, and reading comprehension
- Mathematical problem-solving and reasoning
- Self-advocacy and growth mindset
- ACT / standardized test preparation

Admission Criteria

The Academic Enhancement Program (A.E.P.) is open to students with or without a diagnosed learning disability. Students may be recommended by either their parents or teachers.

Alternative Learning Plans

A student who has been diagnosed with a learning or health-related issue that impairs learning will work closely with our intervention specialists and counselors to create an educational plan that addresses any necessary accommodations.

Bridge Program

NDA offers a week-long Bridge Program in the summer, prior to the start of the school year, for freshmen. The Intervention Specialists and other teachers assist students by reviewing study skills, math, science, and summer reading.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

THE ACADEMIC ADVANTAGE

Notre Dame Academy is a Catholic, all-girls, college-preparatory high school, sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame of Covington, Kentucky. Notre Dame Academy provides a premier education infused with the spirit of St. Julie Billiart proclaiming God's goodness and provident care.

At NDA, we have a strong academic tradition of empowering young women to make a difference in the world. Notre Dame Academy helps develop each student in an environment that fosters growth of the whole person. Our curriculum is designed to challenge the abilities of our students while captivating their interests and providing support where needed. The NDA community strives to instill in young women not only knowledge but also spiritual and moral values that will help them grow as women of faith, vision and purpose.

The goal of our academic program is to educate young women by cultivating their God given intellectual abilities in order for them to make a difference in our world. We believe in an education that combines the timeless wisdom of our Catholic faith with the necessary skills that our students will need to adapt to a continuously changing world. To that end, we offer a curriculum that will prepare each young woman for the many challenges that she will face in college and life. Our highly qualified teachers demand excellence in the classroom and encourage each student to work to her full potential. With an approach that integrates academics, service, arts and athletics, we are molding young women to have a vibrant faith and a passion for learning.

Curriculum

College and universities base their acceptance of students on how well the students perform in high school and their program of studies. Historically over 99% of Notre Dame Academy graduates go to college/university. The majority of our students attend 4-year colleges; however, students are also prepared for 2-year and vocational courses of study. The NDA curriculum is designed to prepare our students not only for a positive and successful college experience but for the total formation of our young women as well.

Courses are offered on three levels of difficulty: College Preparatory, Honors, and Advanced Placement/College Level (Dual Credit). Academic departments recommend a course level for the required classes that, in their professional judgment, is appropriate for each student. Students are encouraged to select elective courses according to their ability and interest. (Students may take courses in all levels based on their experience and interests.) College Preparatory level courses provide a solid educational foundation for higher education. A copy of Notre Dame Academy's Curriculum Guide can be found on our website at www.ndapandas.org.

Academic Opportunities

Students at Notre Dame Academy are offered many opportunities for academic enrichment. Multiple courses are offered at the Honors, Advanced Placement and College Level (Dual Credit). Honors level courses involve higher academic standards and a greater workload than College Preparatory courses. Advanced Placement (AP) or College Level (Dual Credit) courses provide the opportunity to earn college credit while remaining enrolled in high school. Students are invited by the respective department to be enrolled in these courses.

Historically NDA has been very strong in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, providing our students with a comprehensive curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and real-world problem solving. That tradition continues today at NDA with our 1:1 iPad Initiative and the development of our Instructional Technology Department.

Notre Dame Academy strives to be innovative and current in our educational efforts. This can be seen in the Accelerated Learning Opportunities at NDA as well as in the many courses added to our curriculum over the past five years that are relevant to today's learners.

Notre Dame Academy currently offers Advanced Placement courses in:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Biology* | Physics 1* |
| Calculus AB | Physics 2* |
| Computer Science | Pre-Calculus |
| English Language | Psychology |
| English Literature | Spanish Language |
| Environmental Science | Spanish Literature |
| European History | Statistics |
| French Language and Culture | United States History |
| Modern History | World History |
| Music Theory | |

*Course requires 1 lab period/week in addition to 5 lecture periods/week

The following courses may be taken for Dual Credit taught by NDA faculty.

- AP European History (TMU)
- AP Physics 1 (TMU)
- AP Physics 2 (TMU)
- DC Chemistry (TMU)
- DC Education 101 (TMU)
- DC Engineering Foundations (UC)
- DC Latin 3 (TMU)
- DC Latin 4 (TMU)
- DC Spanish 4 (TMU)

*Thomas More University (TMU) *University of Cincinnati (UC) Preferred DC Institution

These courses have been added to NDA’s Curriculum Guide in the past five years:

- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Statistics
- AP Psychology
- AP Music Theory
- Business Principles and Application
- Creative Writing
- DC Education 101
- DC Spanish
- Engineering Foundations + DC Engineering
- Honors Computer Science
- Law and Justice
- Peer Mentoring

Academic Counseling & Support Services

At Notre Dame Academy, we do our best to be sensitive to the needs of all students and we are committed to assist students who struggle at times in various areas of their high school experience. In order to provide academic, emotional, physical, social and career support to all of our students, Notre Dame Academy has a full-time Intervention Specialist, a part-time Intervention Specialists, four full-time Counselors and a full-time Records Coordinator.

Our highly qualified and dedicated counseling staff collaborates with faculty and parents to address student needs, offer college and career assistance, and connect students and parents with community resources.

We offer the following Academic Counseling Services at Notre Dame Academy:

- **Academic Enhancement Program**
NDA offers courses to assist students with academic needs in the freshman through senior years. These courses are taught by an Intervention Specialist who works closely with the Counseling Staff to assist these students.
- **Educational Plans for Students with Diagnosed Learning Issues**
NDA recognizes that many students have a diagnosed learning issue and will work with these students and their parents to set up an educational plan that will address any accommodations that can be made for the student, such as extended time for assessments or having a test read aloud. This plan is important to have in place for extended time allowances on standardized tests such as the SAT/PSAT and ACT. NDA requires an application for parents to complete and submit with evaluations prior to creating an educational plan.
- **The Bridge Program (for Incoming Freshmen)**
Notre Dame hosts The Bridge Program each summer for incoming freshmen. The goal of this program is to provide incoming freshmen with a bridge from middle school to high school. It strengthens skills in the areas of Math, English and Study Skills. Besides the academic assistance, The Bridge Program is a great opportunity for students to get an early start on making new friends and finding their way around NDA. This program generally takes place the week before school starts and is from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. There is a fee to attend this program, but scholarships are available to those who need them.

- **Scheduling Meetings and Follow-up Assistance with Scheduling**
Incoming freshmen and their parents are invited to small group meetings to discuss curriculum and co-curricular opportunities and receive a tentative freshman schedule. This occurs in the spring before the start of the freshman year.

Current freshmen, sophomore, and junior students along with their parents are invited to attend an informational grade level scheduling meeting in January at NDA. Prior to the meeting, students will meet during a long homeroom period to discuss course options. The various departments recommend students for specific courses and levels (College Prep, Honors, AP).
- **Meetings with Parents and Students**
NDA’s Counselors work with students and their parents to address academic concerns and set goals.
- **Family Meetings with Every Rising Senior to Discuss College/Career Planning**
We strive to assist students and families with every step of navigating the college admissions process. Our counselors serve students and families of all grade levels in the area of post-graduate options.
- **Career Development Opportunities**
NDA’s Counselors offer each student at Notre Dame Academy support and resources that will prepare her to reach her future goals. These resources include career fairs and community service opportunities. We also utilize a college and career information system called Scoir. Scoir is a comprehensive program that assists all students in their college and career preparation.
- **Financial Aid Presentations to Assist Parents/Students**
We are committed to helping parents and students in their efforts to understand the financial aid process when applying for college.
- **Administration of Standardized Testing**
NDA works hard to prepare students to take the necessary standardized tests in order for our students to pursue college or the world of work. Here are the standardized tests that students will take at NDA.

Freshmen: CERT (College Equipped Readiness Test)/Practice ACT test (taken on the iPad)

Sophomores: Students take the PSAT (Practice SAT Test) and CERT (College Equipped Readiness Test)/Practice ACT (taken on the iPad)

Juniors: Students take the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test).
NDA Juniors also take an official ACT Test during a school day in the spring. Students can send the Composite Score from this test to colleges/military/etc. It is an official test. Students will register for this special ACT Test during school with NDA’s Counselors. Students do not register online for this test. They will also take a full-length practice ACT prior to the in-school test.

- **Life Skill Lessons**
Various topics are explored with students to improve their soft skill competencies.
- **College Workshops**
College Workshops are offered to all rising seniors several weeks before the start of school. Each senior is given valuable information about the college application process.
- **Student Records**
NDA’s Student Services/Records Coordinator organizes student transcripts and standardized test scores and aids students in the college application process.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

1699 Hilton Drive, Park Hills, KY 41011
 Phone: 859.261.4300 Fax: 859.292.7722
 CEEB Code: 180-575
 Web page: www.ndapandas.org

Mrs. Jane Kleier, Interim President/CCO
 Mr. Jack VonHandorf, Principal
 Mrs. Lisa Timmerding, Assistant Principal for Student Life
 Mrs. Molly Proudfit, Assistant Principal for Academics

▶ NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Notre Dame Academy provides an excellent environment for young women growing into adulthood. They are given a strong spiritual and academic foundation, enhanced by an array of extra-curricular and athletic opportunities. As the ONLY single-gender Catholic high school for young women in the Diocese of Covington, NDA prepares its students for the demands and challenges they will face in the future. Some of the academic advantages at Notre Dame Academy include:

- United States Blue Ribbon School of Excellence: 1996, 2012, 2019
- The Southern Association of Secondary Schools Accreditation: 2018-2023

▶ PROFILE

- **Single-gender college preparatory school (9th-12th grades)**
- **Enrollment: 497 students**
- **12:1 Student-Teacher ratio | 41 Faculty and 27 Staff Members (68% have a Masters degree or higher)**
- **1 Campus Minister and 1 Chaplain**
- **4 full-time School Counselors**
- **1 full-time Intervention Specialist**
- **1 part-time Intervention Specialist**
- **1-to-1 Computing** (all students utilize an ipad)
- **9 Dual-Credit Courses** taught at NDA and by NDA Faculty
 (Partner colleges: Northern Kentucky University, Thomas More University, University of Cincinnati)
- **19 Advanced Placement (AP) Courses**

▶ CLASS OF 2024 STATISTICS

- **Students in Class of 2024: 118**
- **Graduation Rate: 100%**
- **Average ACT Composite: 24.9** *National Average: 19.8
- **Average Weighted GPA: 4.006**
- Hours of service performed in 4 years at NDA: **12,793**
- Enrolled in 4-year College/University: **116 (98%)**
- Enrolled in 2-year College: **2 (2%)**
- Graduates enrolled in Kentucky colleges/universities: **58 (49%)**
- Graduates enrolled in out-of-state colleges/universities: **60 (51%)**
- Offered a College Scholarship: **118 (100%)** *includes scholarships from colleges, private scholarships, and Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships
- Accepted a College Scholarship: **104 (88%)**
- Accepted Scholarship(s) covering at least half tuition at college attending: **30 (25%)**
- Total Scholarship Amount offered to Class of 2024: **\$18 million**
- AP Scholar: **10** (Scored 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams)
- AP Scholars with Honors: **6** (Received an average score of at least 3.25 or higher on all AP Exams taken, & scores of 3 or higher on 4 or more exams)
- Kentucky Governor's Scholar Alumna: **4**
- Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts Alumna: **5**
- Kentucky Governor's School for Entrepreneurs Alumna: **1**

▶ REQUIRED CURRICULUM

26 credits are required for graduation from Notre Dame Academy

• Religion	4 credits	• Fine Arts	1 credit
• English	4 credits	• Health	.5 credit
• Mathematics	4 credits	• Physical Education	.5 credit
• Science	3 credits	• Tech and Com	.5 credit
• Social Studies	3 credits	• Electives	3.5 credits
• World Language	2 credits		

▶ ACADEMIC POLICIES

Transcripts: Grades on transcript are Unweighted

Scheduling: 7 Classes per day

Instructional Levels: College Prep, Honors, AP / Dual-Credit

Scheduling System: Semesters

▶ ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) OFFERINGS

19 AP Courses Offered *Due to scheduling restraints, generally, students can take a maximum of 8 AP courses over 4 years

• Biology*	• French Language and Culture	• Spanish Language
• Calculus AB	• Modern History	• Spanish Literature
• Computer Science	• Music Theory	• Statistics
• English Language	• Physics 1*	• United States History
• English Literature	• Physics 2*	• World History
• Environmental Science	• Pre-Calculus	
• European History	• Psychology	

*Course requires 1 lab period per week in addition to 5 lecture periods per week

▶ DUAL CREDIT OFFERINGS

• AP European History (TMU)	• DC Chemistry (TMU)	• DC Latin 3 (TMU)
• AP Physics 1 (TMU)	• DC Education 101 (TMU)	• DC Latin 4 (TMU)
• AP Physics 2 (TMU)	• DC Engineering Foundations (UC)	• DC Spanish 4 (TMU)

▶ A NOTRE DAME ACADEMY EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONAL LEVELS OFFERED: College Preparatory, Honors, Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit

SCHEDULE UTILIZED: Notre Dame Academy runs on a semester system and there are seven, 45 minute classes each day. All 1.0 credit classes meet the entire year. The 1/2 credit classes are either one-semester in duration or meet 3 days a week the entire year.

PANDA PRIME TIME: Panda Prime Time (PPT) is a flexible time period in the school day that offers students many opportunities for enrichment, support, collaboration and personal learning. The added period is a prime time for students to learn how to balance and organize time leading them to success in college and beyond. Some students may be required to meet with a teacher during this time and failure to meet this obligation will result in disciplinary consequences. Students are expected to utilize the school's facilities as outlined by administration.

SCIENCE RESEARCH: Science Research is a 1/2 credit elective that takes place outside of school hours. Students conduct independent science research projects and present at regional, national and international competitions. Students must log a total of 144 hours of work per year.

WORK-STUDY PROGRAM: Notre Dame Academy's Work-Study Program makes it possible for families to receive financial assistance to subsidize their tuition. Eligible families are assigned jobs to assist in the cleaning of our facilities. Participation in work-study can reduce a student's tuition significantly. *Currently, 1 out of 4 NDA families participates in the Work Study Program.*

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT AND FINE ARTS OPPORTUNITIES:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Language Immersion Study Abroad Trips | • Visual Art Shows |
| • Domestic and Abroad Mission Trips | • Theatre / Performing Arts Program |
| • Academic Team | • Marching Band, Pep Band, and Orchestra |
| • Speech and Drama Team | • Choral Ensemble/Select Choir |
| • Foreign Language Festival Competitions | • Dance Team |
| • Scholastic Writing Competitions | |

The Admissions Process

Our admissions process gives prospective students and their families the opportunity to learn about our school and allows us to get to know each applicant. The procedure for applying to Notre Dame Academy includes the following steps:

▶ 1. Request Information

Prospective students interested in learning more about Notre Dame Academy should complete the Join our Contact List form via our website, <https://www.ndapandas.org/admissions/ExperienceNDA24-25>. They can also contact our Enrollment Office directly to receive correspondence from NDA.

▶ 2. NDA Visit

Prospective students can experience daily life at NDA by scheduling a half-day shadow visit. Prospective students and their parents can learn about academics, admission policies, and student life by attending an Information Session on either October 3 or 22 or by attending our Open House on November 10 from 1:00 -3:00 p.m.

Reservations are required for all on-campus events and Shadow Days. Please contact the NDA Enrollment Office for reservation information, 859-292-1829/caccavarik@ndapandas.org or 859-292-1837/spellmanj@ndapandas.org

▶ 3. Take the High School Placement Test (HSPT)

All incoming freshman students interested in attending Notre Dame Academy must take the High School Placement Test. The Diocesan-wide testing date for the HSPT is Saturday, December 14, 2024. Information regarding the HSPT will be mailed to prospective NDA students in November. There is a fee of \$20.00 that must be paid at the time of test registration. The deadline for registration is Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

This test is used for admission and academic placement for the student. Recommendations from elementary school teachers are also considered.

If the test is taken at another location the results can be sent to Notre Dame Academy; however, **PRIORITY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS WHO TAKE THE HSPT AT NOTRE DAME ACADEMY.** If the test has not been taken, contact NDA at 859-292-1829.

▶ 4. Receive HSPT Scores

Our HSPT Results Meeting for parents and students will be on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Notre Dame Academy. Students who are eligible for academic scholarships based on their HSPT scores will be notified of their eligibility prior to this meeting.

▶ 5. Submit Online Application and Registration Fee

The NDA Freshman Priority Application period is from January 13, 2025 – February 7, 2025. All registration materials and a non-refundable \$200 registration fee must be submitted to Notre Dame Academy by February 7, 2024, to be eligible for scholarship consideration and our drawing for two \$500 tuition vouchers.

Once you have completed the Online Application for Admission and paid your registration fee, your application is complete and you will be assigned an NDA student ID number and an application number.* Following the completion of your application, you will receive an admission confirmation letter along with our Freshman Course Offering Request Form. This form must be completed and returned to the NDA Enrollment Office before your freshman class schedule can be finalized.

*It is important to note that the application number is a sequential number based on the date and time of the completion of the application. This number will be used in the course assignment process for classes that are assigned on a “first come, first served” basis.

▶ 6. Freshman Conference

The admission confirmation letter will contain instructions for scheduling an appointment for a freshman conference on either March 8 or March 22, 2025. Conferences are held with new students, their parents and members of our Academic Counseling and Student Support Services staff. Students will get an overview of the freshman curriculum and will have the opportunity to talk one-on-one with our counselors about their individual class schedules. Schoolbellies will also be available to take orders for uniforms and our spirit shop will be open.

Tuition/Financial Assistance/Scholarships

▶ Tuition rates for 2024-25

The information below is for the 2024-25 school year. Tuition and fees for the 2025-26 school year will be announced in the spring. Discounts are available for families with multiple daughters attending NDA at the same time and/or sons attending Covington Catholic High School.

Annual Tuition Rate for In-Diocese Students:	\$10,410
Annual Tuition Rate for Out-of-Diocese Students:	\$11,420
Annual Fees: Consumables	\$890
Annual Technology Fee: (JR-SR)	\$75
Registration Fee for Incoming Students:	\$200
Annual Tech Fee: (FR/SO)	\$300*

*New NDA students lease an iPad package from NDA and pay an annual technology fee that covers the cost and maintenance of the iPad and the required educational software.

Note: All NDA families must pay their tuition and incidental fees (e.g., athletic, theatre, etc.) through FACTS Management Company.

▶ Financial Assistance - Work Study

The total amount of financial assistance and tuition allowances given by NDA in 2023-24:

\$907,558.00

Notre Dame Academy is committed to working with any family whose daughter could benefit from a Notre Dame education. NDA intends to strengthen its efforts to engage stakeholders to support its mission. Tuition and expense increases will be kept to a minimum without sacrificing quality.

Tuition Assistance/Scholarships

Grants and Scholarships - Over 62 need-based grants are available to students through the generosity of several benefactors. These grants range from \$500 to \$4000. Applications are available on the NDA website.

Sr. Agnetis Scholarship - Students ranking first and second in their class, and two others, voted upon by the faculty, are awarded this scholarship. These students are chosen because of their overall attitude toward learning and their academic achievement.

Incoming Freshmen Scholarships - NDA students scoring high on the placement test are eligible for a scholarship. Several one-time scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 are awarded to the top performers registered for NDA.

Academic Excellence Scholarships - The following scholarships are awarded to students scoring in the top percentiles on the placement test. Each scholarship is renewable if the student's grade-point average is maintained.

\$1,500 is awarded to students scoring in the 99th percentile.

\$1000 is awarded to students scoring in the 98th percentile.

\$750 is awarded to students scoring in the 97th percentile.

Work/Study Program - In addition to the grants and scholarships, it is possible to participate in the Work/Study program by which families work to pay off tuition costs.

In order to be eligible for Financial Assistance and/or the Work/Study Program at Notre Dame Academy, one must follow a two-step process:

- The family must apply online for the FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment by April 15, 2025. The cost is \$40 per family. See more information at www.ndapandas.org.
- **Families who receive financial aid must also apply for a work study job.** This should be done by April 15, 2025. A job application form can be downloaded at www.ndapandas.org or a copy can be found at the school office. Jobs are assigned during the spring and families will be notified about their acceptance in the program toward the end of the spring semester.

For additional information visit our website at www.ndapandas.org

Academic Departments



English



The English Department aims to provide students with the opportunity to master the writing, reading, speaking, listening, and thinking skills they need for an adult life in our society. It hopes to awaken or intensify a love for reading and to encourage analytic and creative writing ability. It strives to help students learn to evaluate the communications media so that they maintain values consistent with their Christian beliefs. The English Department also aims to provide learning situations and experiences which promote cultural development rooted in the knowledge and experience of literature, music, art, and history.

Arts



The Arts Department of Notre Dame Academy seeks to instill the wonder and beauty of creative expression in all of our students. Whether it is vocal or instrumental music, studio art and design, hand sewn quilts or theater productions, we believe that the arts enrich human life and explore the potential inside each one of us. Students are required to take 1 credit in the Arts and may take additional courses as electives. Many of the courses are complemented by performance opportunities.



Religion

The Religion Department of Notre Dame Academy assists young women in the development of their faith and in forming small Christian communities beginning in their freshman year. Students are encouraged to view faith as a gift from God that must be nourished and lived out according to the Gospel values inherent in the Catholic Tradition. Not only are students taught Catholic doctrine and the eternal truth found in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, but also they are encouraged to use critical thinking skills regarding their spiritual development and the formation of a moral conscience. A positive relationship with God and with others is accomplished through opportunities for involvement in their school, community and the world, through service opportunities for those in need, provided by Campus Ministry.

S.T.E.M.

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2$$

Notre Dame Academy has a long tradition of success in STEM related areas. NDA continues to bring innovation in education to its students, providing many opportunities for students to build the confidence and skills needed to pursue STEM careers. With a focus on becoming effective in the 21st century, NDA students must be able to create, evaluate, and effectively utilize information, media and technology. In this globally competitive information age, teaching students the skills to navigate complex work and life environments is critical to their success.

Science

Science is a major part of modern day culture. It is important not only in its factual content, but also in its method and philosophy. Since it has become enmeshed in social institutions, NDA students need to be scientifically literate, develop a sense of inquiry, and be appreciative of the natural world. At NDA, students learn to use the scientific method to develop careful observation, critical thinking, and problem solving skills in biology, chemistry, physics and physical science. Students also have tremendous opportunities to pursue research opportunities at NDA.

Technology

Notre Dame Academy's technology and business courses are designed to prepare students to develop various technology related skills as lifelong learners. The use of technology has become increasingly integrated into the curriculum at NDA and students have many opportunities to use what they learn in the technology program in other classes. As part of the program, students study the moral and ethical choices facing our society in the proper and safe use of technology at home, school and when working in the business world.

Engineering

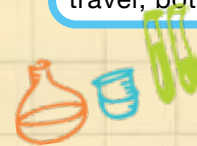
NDA students are introduced to various fields of engineering, the engineering design process, and core math and science concepts that encompass all fields of engineering. Students examine ethics in engineering, teamwork, and the technical communication necessary for successful engineering practices.

Mathematics

Math is a tool used to develop logical and creative thinking. The mathematics curriculum at Notre Dame Academy is designed to achieve a proper balance between theory and application through practice and problem solving. The curriculum continues to evolve with the advancements in technology. The mathematics department offers courses that utilize a variety of teaching methods to develop each student's mathematical potential.

World Languages

The study of world languages helps the student acquire a knowledge and appreciation of other people, their manner of communication, and their culture. As our world shrinks through telecommunication advancements and society becomes more mobile, the appreciation of other languages and cultures becomes a necessary social tool. Furthermore, the study of other cultures becomes a stepping-stone to broader global awareness. In addition, the study of languages facilitates probable and accessible international travel, both for business and pleasure.



What's your favorite subject?



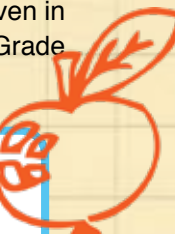
History - Social Studies

The purpose of the Social Studies program is to afford the student a working knowledge of the history and story of the world in which she lives. The primary aims of the program are to create an awareness in the student of her place in the world, global issues and events, and her Christian responsibility as a global citizen.



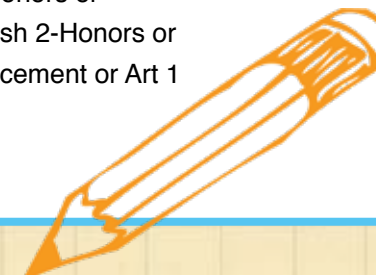
Freshman Course Offerings

Because students enter Notre Dame Academy from many different grade schools, each with their own unique academic programs, placement in freshman classes is made based on a number of factors. These include: entrance test scores, other standardized tests taken during grade school, recommendations made by the student's grade school teachers, and interviews with the student and her parent/guardian(s). Students placed in the Algebra 2-Honors, Algebra 1-Honors or Language 2-Honors classes must have department approval and pass a qualifying test given in the spring prior to beginning their freshman year in the fall. Students who complete the NDA/CCH Algebra 1 Grade 8-Honors course with a minimum grade of 82 may enroll in Algebra 2-Honors as freshmen.



The normal course load for freshmen is seven credits

COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS
Religion: Faith And Revelation	1	Mathematics	1
An Introduction To Scripture and Who Is Christ?		Algebra 1 or Algebra 1-Honors or Algebra 2-Honors	
Business and Technology	½	Science	1
Technology And Communication		Biology Honors (level 4) or Biology College Prep (level 3)	
English	1	Health	½
English 1-Honors (level 4) or English 1 (level 3)		Physical Education	½
History And Social Studies	½		
World Geography		Before/After School Electives	
Language or Academic Enhancement or Art 1	1	Fine Arts	
(All Language 1 courses are level 3. Language 2 courses are offered at the honors level 4)		Band	½
French 1, French 2-Honors or Latin 1, Latin 2-Honors or Spanish 1, Spanish 2-Honors or Academic Enhancement or Art 1		Science	
		Science Research-Honors ...	½
		Summer Electives	
		Fine Arts	
		Studio Art	½





NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
Educating Women to Make a Difference

High School Placement Test

HSPT PREP WORKSHOP at NDA

Notre Dame Academy invites 8th graders to attend an NDA HSPT Prep Workshop to learn tips and strategies for success on the High School Placement Test

The workshop will be offered at the following times:

- Saturday, November 16 | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- Saturday, November 16 | 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 3 | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

NOTE: The content is the same for every session, so a student only needs to attend one workshop. Each session will be limited to 30 students.

The workshop's content will include:

- Information on how Notre Dame Academy uses HSPT scores for freshman class placement
- Strategies for increasing quick recall of basic facts (especially in math)
- Techniques for decreasing test anxiety
- A short practice test to familiarize students with the design of the test and test questions in each section

NOTE: This workshop will not emphasize academic content in any specific course.

Instructors:

NDA English and Math Faculty

Cost:

\$50 (includes all workshop materials)

Registration:

Please use the QR code at the right to access the registration form



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

Questions? Contact Katie Caccavari, NDA Director of Enrollment, 859-292-1829, caccavarik@ndapandas.org.

So what's next...

High School Placement Test (HSPT)

December 14, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Notre Dame Academy

All incoming freshmen are required to take the test.

You can register for the HSPT with this QR code beginning on November 4.

The registration deadline for the HSPT is December 10, 2024.

The HSPT is one tool used to determine a student's level of preparation for high school and the appropriate placement for her in freshman courses. We also consult the grade schools to assist in this process. Our goal is to achieve the best placement to challenge and support each student's academic experience at NDA.

Students do not need to bring any testing materials for the HSPT, as we will supply everything they need. Please note that calculators may not be used for the HSPT. Students may bring a small snack and a drink in a closed container to eat during their break.

Students with diagnosed learning disabilities who qualify for extended testing time should contact the NDA Admissions Office at 859-292-1829 to arrange for the extended time.

On the day of the test, students should arrive at 8:45 a.m. Parents are invited to walk in with their daughter to check in for the test and then students will be directed to a classroom.

If the test is taken at another location the results can be sent to Notre Dame Academy. If a prospective student has not taken the test but is interested in attending NDA, contact the Admissions Office at (859) 292-1829.

Please note: Priority for freshman academic scholarships will be given to students who take the HSPT at Notre Dame Academy.



HSPT Results Meeting

January 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Notre Dame Academy

Our HSPT Results Meeting is for parents and students and will be on Monday, January 13, 2025. Test results can be picked up starting at 7:00 p.m. and a brief meeting explaining the test results will follow. Students who are eligible for academic scholarships based on their HSPT scores will be notified of their eligibility prior to this meeting.

A financial aid information session will take place at approximately 7:30 p.m. immediately following the HSPT Results presentation.

If you have any questions regarding the HSPT or the admissions process at NDA, please contact our Director of Enrollment, Katie Caccavari at caccavarik@ndapandas.org or (859) 292-1829.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference

Our Class of 2028 joins us from 23 area schools, eager to make a difference and carry on the tradition of excellence at Notre Dame Academy. In total, our Pandas come from 52 schools, uniting students from across the region into one strong, vibrant sisterhood.



Beechwood
Blessed Sacrament
Boone Cty. H.S.
Calvary Christian
Campbell Cty. Middle School
Community Montessori
Conner
Cooper High School
Covington Latin
Dixie Heights High School

Dunlap High School, Dunlap, IL
Gray Middle School
Guardian Angel, Cincinnati OH
Gull Lake Middle School, Richland, MI
Highlands Middle School
Holmes
Holy Cross
Home school
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Indiana Univ. H.S. Online

Liebfrauenschule, Vechta, Germany
Mary Queen of Heaven
Mercy Montessori
Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons, NY
Ockerman
Other - Out of District School
Prince of Peace
Saint-Exupery College, Vélizy-Villacoublay, France
Scott High School
Spring Creek H.S., Seven Springs, NC

St. Agnes
St. Anthony
St. Augustine
St. Cecilia
St. Henry
St. Joseph Academy
St. Joseph, Cold Spring
St. Joseph, Crescent Springs
St. Louis School, Owensville OH
St. Paul

St. Paul, Valparaiso IN
St. Pius X
St. Thomas
St. Timothy
St. Veronica, Cincinnati OH
Sts. Peter & Paul
Tichenor Middle School
Turkey Foot Middle School
Twenhofel
Union Pointe Academy

Villa Madonna
Zion Christian Academy



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Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

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preparing graduates to be outstanding leaders
serving the world.



Learn more about the All-Girl Advantage at www.ndapandas.org.