



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families enjoyed a joyful Christmas season filled with peace, rest, and special moments together. After a longer-than-expected break, we are excited to welcome our students back to campus today, ready to embrace the opportunities that a new year brings.

As we step into 2025, we are reminded of the gift of new beginnings. The start of a new year offers our students a clean slate academically and a renewed focus to make the most of their school year. It is also an opportunity for all of us to grow in faith, strengthening our relationship with God and one another. As you will see in the Campus Ministry section of this week's Panda Press Weekly, there are many opportunities for students to engage in prayer and spiritual growth this semester.

The Christmas season in the Catholic Church does not end on December 25 but extends to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrate on January 12. During this time, we reflect on the birth of Christ and the ways He continues to be present in our lives today. The season calls us to share Christ's light with the world, carrying His message of love, hope, and joy into the new year.

I would like to take a moment to offer a special thank-you to our Facilities Team, Rick Coldiron and Ken Korfhagen, for their hard work over the past few days. They worked tirelessly to clear Hilton Drive, the parking lots, and sidewalks on campus, ensuring that our community could return to school safely today. Their dedication is greatly appreciated by our entire community.

As we settle back into our routines, let's encourage our students to make positive resolutions for the remainder of the school year — whether it's striving for academic success, growing in faith and service, or finding ways to bring joy to others. Together, we will continue to *Love God, Love Others and Change the World*.

Thank you for your continued support of Notre Dame Academy. We wish you and your families blessings of peace and joy in this new year.

In Notre Dame,

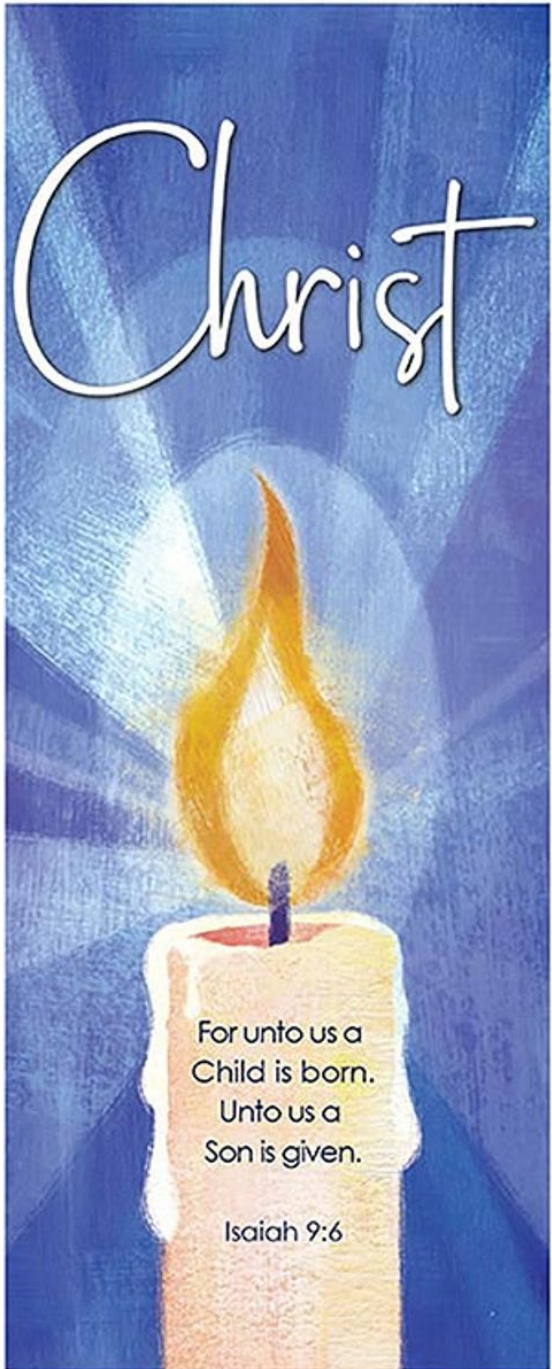
Mr. Jack VonHandorf

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ONE HOUR DELAY - THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025

Due to the cold temperatures and potential re-freeze, Notre Dame Academy will be on an hour delay tomorrow 1/9/25. School will begin at 9:00 a.m.

CAMPUS MINISTRY



FAITH FORMATION AT NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

A NEW YEAR, A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO GROW IN FAITH

Students, why not make a New Year's resolution to strengthen your faith in 2025? Notre Dame Academy offers many opportunities for you to grow closer to Christ through prayer, reflection, and service.

As a reminder, the Christmas season continues until the Baptism of Our Lord on January 12. We invite you to stop by our Mary, Mother of the World Chapel to see the beautiful Nativity scene, a special gift from the Sisters of Notre Dame. This treasured display was used in the chapel at St. Joseph Heights, and we are honored to have it as part of our chapel this season.

Here are several ways you can participate in faith formation at NDA:

Rosary:

Join us for a decade of the Rosary every Monday and Thursday morning at 7:45 a.m. in the chapel.

We also invite you to pray the Rosary with alumnae during Panda Prime Time on Thursday, January 9, at 12:50 p.m.

Mass:

All are welcome to celebrate the Eucharist with Fr. Kunath every Tuesday and Friday morning at 7:20 a.m. in the chapel.

Bible Study:

Monday Morning Bible Study meets each Monday at 7:30 a.m. in the Reflection Space of the Chapel. All students and staff are welcome to join.

Our all-school New Year's Mass, originally scheduled for January 6, will be rescheduled for January 17. At this Mass, we will also celebrate 50 years of NDA's Junior Service Program.

Finally, good luck to our Juniors who will be heading out for their first service experiences next week as part of the Junior Service Program. We are proud of you for putting your faith into action and making a difference in our community!

Let's make 2025 a year to grow in faith and spirit at Notre Dame Academy. All are welcome to join in these opportunities to deepen your relationship with Christ.

Student Life

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If you did not receive notification via email, text message or phone regarding our inclement weather plans this week, please contact the office at (859) 261-4300. Our notification system pulls the contact information from PowerSchool, so it should be a simple correction if you did not receive the messages.

The decision to close or delay school is made with the safety of students, parents and faculty/staff in mind. If there is a need to delay or close school, NDA will use the emergency notification system PowerSchool Messenger to communicate to all school community members through email, text and phone. This decision will also be publicized on all of our social media accounts along with the website.

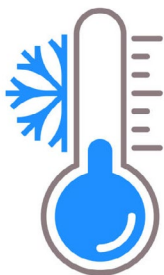
**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

WELCOME GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS NEXT FALL!

NDA is once again going to host international students from our sister school in Germany (Liebfrauenschule Vechta) for a portion of the 2025 fall semester. Four students will be experiencing the NDA Life for 9-10 weeks. The German students would love to be in the US to celebrate Halloween and Thanksgiving, so the girls would arrive in Mid-October and depart in the middle of December. These students speak English very well and are screened thoroughly by their school before they are allowed to apply for this exchange program. Please call or email Sammie Bezold, Foreign Exchange Program Coordinator, at bezolds@ndapandas.org/859-292-1884, if you would be interested in more information about this opportunity. Your reply is not a commitment but would help us to know which families would consider supporting our international student enrollment by serving as host families.



COLD WEATHER UPDATE

STAY WARM PANDAS

Due to the extreme cold temperatures this week, students are permitted to wear sweatpants under their uniform skirts to help stay warm today through Friday.



SPECIAL LITURGY

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We look forward to celebrating the New Year with a special liturgy on Friday, January 17 at 9:30 a.m. Students will need to dress in their normal uniform attire and NOT in spirit wear for this event.

VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!

TIME TO VOTE!

LET'S HONOR OUR ATHLETES

Please be sure to vote for our Athletes of the Week. You can vote [here!](#) Please be sure to vote from your phones and vote once every hour.

- Archery PaNDAs – Notre Dame had a 3,116 score at the Covington Catholic Christmas Tournament.
- Haley Pelstring – She shot games of 211 and 168 in a win over Boone County.
- Sadie Hartig – She improved her times in the 50-yard freestyle (25.87 seconds) and the 100-yard individual medley (1:03.60) at the Girls Night Out meet, then won the 200-yard freestyle (1:55.13) and took fourth in the 100-yard backstroke (1:00.50) at the Catholic Invitational.

Thank you for helping to honor our athletes!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Catholic Schools' Week will be celebrated nationally during the week of January 26 - February 1. Our Student Council has been working hard to determine various activities that can be held to highlight the blessings of our Catholic education. A few of the events that will occur that week are: Mass and a reception with the Sisters of Notre Dame, pajama day, Generations Day, and a rebranded Talent Show titled, "PaNDA's Got Talent."

Due to scheduling issues, the annual Catholic Schools' Week Volleyball game with CCH will be held the Wednesday after CSW on February 5 - more info to come....

Students are asked to consider participating in the Talent Show in one of two ways - showcasing a true talent or performing a skit / dance / act with a group of friends in a lighthearted way. The hope is that this encourages more girls to participate and will have the format of a variety show to showcase the amazing talents of our Pandas and also some lighthearted comical skits as well. Students who are interested can complete the Talent Show Form which will be linked to the Padlet in the next few weeks.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

SPRING MUSICAL

MATILDA AUDITIONS

Calling all performers! It's time for Matilda auditions. If you're interested in being part of this exciting production, be sure to fill out the audition form and sign up for a time slot using the links below.

We've also provided helpful resources for songs and monologues to make your audition process smoother. You're welcome to use these materials or bring your own selections if you've already chosen them.

Sign-Up Genius: [Sign up for your audition time!](#)

Character Breakdown: [Learn about the roles!](#)

Google Form: [Fill out your audition sheet!](#)

Audition Resources: [Sheet music and monologues!](#)

Please remember to complete both the form and sign-up sheet if you plan to audition. Even if you already submitted a form for Ms. Smith, we kindly ask you to submit a new one for better organization.

We can't wait to see you bring *Matilda* to life this spring! Break a leg, Pandas!



LIVE TRAINING DATES

VIRTUS

If you are new to Virtus and need to attend a live training, here are some opportunities:

Diocesan Curia, Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium, 1125 Madison Avenue, Covington, Kentucky.

- * Tuesday, January 14, 2025 - 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- * Tuesday, January 14, 2025 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- * Thursday, January 30, 2025 - 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- * Thursday, January 30, 2025 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- * Thursday, February 13, 2025 - 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- * Wednesday, February 13, 2025 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- * Wednesday, February 26, 2025 - 9:00AM - 11:30AM
- * Wednesday, February 26, 2025 - 6:00PM - 8:30PM
- * Tuesday, March 11 - 9:00AM - 11:30AM
- * Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - 6:00PM - 8:30PM
- * Wednesday, March 26, 2025 - 9:00AM - 11:30PM
- * Wednesday, March 26, 2025 - 6:00PM - 8:30PM

Diocesan Catholic Children's Home, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky.

- * Tuesday, March 4, 2025 - 6:30PM - 9:00PM

Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria, Kentucky.

- Wednesday, January 15, 2025 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Remember: To be Virtus compliant, you must read and answer the accompanying question on the monthly bulletins. You should receive an email with a link the first week of each month.





**NDA VS MANUAL
JANUARY 17, 2025
GAMES 6:00/7:30**



**CLICK THE LINK
ABOVE OR
SCAN THE QR
CODE TO RSVP**



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY BASKETBALL ALUMNAE DAY

ONCE A PANDA, ALWAYS A PANDA

ATTENTION NDA BASKETBALL ALUMNAE!

Join us for Alumnae Night with the NDA Basketball Pandas on Wednesday, January 17!

We'd love to have you back on campus to cheer on our team and re-connect with fellow alumnae.

RSVP today using the link below!

[NDA BASKETBALL ALUMUNAE DAY](#)

We can't wait to see you there!



DELICIOUS NEWS!

WEEKLY LUNCH MENU

A hot lunch and salad bar will be available for purchase each day at our NDA cafeteria. You can find a menu price sheet as well as this week's lunch menu **[HERE](#)**.



STAY WARM WITH PANDA PRIDE

BAMBOOTIQUE

Winter is here, and the temperatures are dropping! What better way to stay cozy than with a pair of NDA sweatpants from the Bambootique Spirit Wear Shop?

For a limited time, we're offering 20% off all sweatpants to help you bundle up in style while showing off your Panda pride. Whether you're heading to class, cheering on our teams, or just relaxing at home, these comfy sweatpants are a perfect addition to your wardrobe. You can shop online **[HERE](#)**.

PLEASE NOTE!

REPORTING ABSENCES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

We have an attendance email for parents to call in a sick child or if a student is leaving early from school. Please use this email if your daughter is sick or needs to leave school early: **attendance@ndapandas.org**. Remember you can always call the school office with any questions 859-261-4300.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Our Pandas have been hard at work over the holiday break, continuing their great performances across multiple sports! Here's a recap of their successes:

LaRosa's MVP: Julia Grace!

We're thrilled to announce that Julia Grace has been named LaRosa's MVP of the Week! A standout volleyball player and defensive specialist, Julia has earned numerous accolades, including MaxPreps All-American, Cincinnati Enquirer Northern Kentucky Player of the Year, and KVCA Defensive Player of the Year. She will continue her volleyball career at Xavier University. Congratulations, Julia, and thank you for making NDA proud!

Bowling

The Bowling Team competed in a Baker Event and finished 4th out of 12 teams, with two of their highest Baker games ever! The Pandas also took a conference win over Boone County, 4-3, just before Christmas break. Standout performances include:

- Haley Pelstring (Sophomore): 168 and 211
- Cami Norris (Junior): 157 and 148
- Clare Pelstring (Freshman): 175
- Norah Pilgram (Junior): Personal best series of 262 and personal best game of 145

The Pandas are now 6-2 in the conference. Keep up the great work! Next up is the Cooper event at Waltz Bowling on Thursday, January 9.

Archery

Congratulations to our Panda Archery Team, the 2024 CCH Christmas Classic High School Team Champions! Reagan Caman medaled with a 4th place finish, and four Pandas finished in the Top 10 with 11 in the Top 30 of high school girls. Additionally, five Pandas set new personal records. The team is back in action this weekend at the Community Christian Academy 3D Tournament. Good luck, Archers!

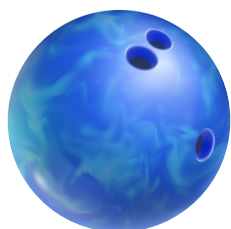
Basketball

The Basketball Team traveled to Louisville for a holiday tournament, where they went 3-1. Junior Emma Holtzapfel was named to the All-Tournament Team! The Pandas came up short against Dixie last week, 55-68, bringing their season record to 1-1 against Dixie. Their game against Simon Kenton on Monday was postponed due to snow. They'll be back on the court this weekend, taking on Madison Central at the Franklin County Sports Classic.

Swimming & Diving

The Aqua Pandas hosted the NDA Catholic Invitational, with a record number of swimmers participating! During the event, 10 seniors were recognized for their contributions to the team. The Pandas finished 4th out of 13 teams and are back in action this Saturday at the Scott High School Invitational.

Middle School Track program is holding sign ups - you can sign up [HERE](#).



COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



ATTENTION STUDENTS

ACT PREP OPPORTUNITY!

We're excited to announce that Notre Dame Academy is partnering with TorchPrep to offer ACT Boot Camp sessions this year!



The ACT will undergo significant changes by September 2025, so this is the last year to take the current version of the test. This is a great opportunity to achieve your target score for college admissions and scholarships.

NDA will host TorchPrep's ACT Boot Camp before the March 11 test date. Registration for the March prep session closes on January 12 — don't miss out!

For details and to register, follow the link below. TorchPrep is available to answer your questions and support your college admissions journey.

[TorchPrep & NDA - ACT Boot Camp](#) 513.599.6559 info@torchprep.com

COLLEGE
REP VISITS

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

NDA COLLEGE VISIT SCHEDULE

[CLICK HERE](#) for a list of college visits specifically for NDA students/families. The visits are in the hallway outside the cafeteria. All students are welcome to visit the reps.

REGISTER TODAY

WINTER PREVIEW DAY AT THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY

High school seniors are invited to experience the welcoming community atmosphere at Thomas More University during their Winter Preview Day on Thursday, January 16, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

This small-scale event is the perfect opportunity to connect with their admissions team, learn about their diverse academic majors, generous scholarship offerings, and what it means to pursue a values-based liberal arts education as a Thomas More Saint. Guests will enjoy an admissions presentation followed by a tour of their beautiful campus, including the brand-new academic center!

This is their first Winter Preview event, designed especially for current seniors, but everyone is welcome to join.

[RSVP today: Winter Preview Day](#)



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

EXPLORE DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2025-26

Is your daughter interested in signing up for dual credit in 2025-26? Join Thomas More University for one of our Thomas More Dual-Credit Information Sessions! During these information sessions, prospective students and their families can learn more about what makes the Thomas More Dual Credit program an excellent opportunity for students to explore and earn college credits at a reduced tuition rate.

For more information about our next Information Session event:

Information Session 2 (In Person at Thomas More)

- Type: In person presentation with Q&A
- When: Wednesday, January 15 – 6-7 p.m.
- Event location: Thomas More University's Zeigler Auditorium
- Zeigler Auditorium is located on the first floor of the new academic building
- Parking is free and available near the building (see attached).
- **RSVPs are required for the event:** <https://apply.thomasmore.edu/register/dualcreditinfosession2>

Can't make it to this one? We have a couple other options coming up as well:

Information Session 3 (Virtual)

- Type: Virtual (Zoom) presentation with Q&A
- When: Wednesday, February 12 – 6-7 p.m.
- RSVPs are required for the event: <https://apply.thomasmore.edu/register/dualcreditinfosession3>
- Zoom link will be sent to those who RSVP

Diocese of Covington Dual Credit Information Session (In person)

- Type: In person event for students in a Diocese of Covington High School
- Guest presentations from: NKU School-Based Scholars and Gateway CTC Dual-Credit
- When: Wednesday, February 19 – 6-7 p.m.
- Event location: Thomas More University's Zeigler Auditorium
- Zeigler Auditorium is located on the first floor of the new academic building
- **RSVPs are required for the event:** <https://apply.thomasmore.edu/register/covdiointosession>

A copy of the presentation will be provided to all who have RSVP'd following the event.

Please email dualcredit@thomasmore.edu if you have any questions.

ADVANCING THE MISSION



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE WITH MONTHLY GIVING

At Notre Dame Academy, we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our monthly donors, whose ongoing support makes a lasting impact on our students and faculty. Monthly gifts provide a steady and reliable source of funding, allowing us to meet the immediate and evolving needs of our school community.

Because of our donors' consistent support:

- Students grow in their faith through vibrant campus ministry programs and life-changing retreats.
- Talented educators inspire and challenge students every day in the classroom.
- Tuition assistance opens the doors to an NDA education for more young women.

By joining our monthly giving program, you're helping us fulfill our mission of empowering young women to become competent, compassionate, and purposeful leaders.

Thank you for making a difference! Your generosity strengthens our ability to continue transforming lives through the power of Catholic education.

Would you like to become a monthly donor and support the mission of Notre Dame Academy? Visit [HERE](#) to learn more!





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

- St. Tim's Mission Trip
- Hero Night

Important dates

January 9	Alumnae Rosary in Chapel at 12:50 - All are welcome!
January 10	Mass in Chapel 7:20 a.m. - All are welcome!
January 13	HSPT Results Night for Incoming Freshmen
January 20	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 24, 25, 26	1950's Showcase
January 27-31	Catholic Schools Week
February 6	Sips and Stems Alumnae Event
February 7	Mid-Quarter
February 14	Winter Sports Pep Rally
February 17	NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
March 6	Women Making a Difference Luncheon
March 14	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day
April 17 - 25	NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
May 22	Last Day of School
May 23	Graduation