

### **Dear Parents and Guardians,**

This week's Panda Press Weekly highlights the many ways our students and faculty are excelling both in and beyond the classroom. From academic achievements to acts of service, our community continues to live out the mission of Notre Dame Academy in meaningful ways.

First, we are thrilled to celebrate Anna Blair, Emma White, and Chanduni Herath, who have advanced to National Merit Finalist status. This prestigious honor reflects their hard work and dedication, and we are incredibly proud of their accomplishments.

Service remains at the heart of NDA, and our students are making an impact in many ways. Whether volunteering at Go Pantry, participating in our Spring Blood Drive, or preparing for the annual Orange & White Game with St. Ursula, our faith community continues to embody our mission of making a difference in the world.

NDA students are also demonstrating their commitment to community by raising over \$3,099 at last week's NDA vs. CCH Volleyball Game for the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky. This annual tradition goes beyond competition, reinforcing our students' dedication to serving others. It was a really great event, and our student and faculty teams did an outstanding job on the court!

Looking ahead, I encourage all of our families to register for the Father-Daughter Dance: Boots & Beauties on March 8—a special evening to celebrate the bond between fathers and daughters with music, dancing, and fun. Be sure to register by February 26 at the link in the news below to secure your spot.

Thank you for your ongoing support of NDA and our students. Each day, I witness the incredible impact of our school community, and I am grateful for all who contribute to making NDA such a special place.

In Notre Dame,

Jack Von Handorf



# **CAMPUS MINISTRY**



### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### SUPPORTING GO PANTRY'S MISSION

On Monday, February 17, a group of 13 students and 3 teachers teamed up to serve at Go Pantry in Erlanger. The group sorted and counted donations, prepared juice boxes to be packed in GoBags and checked to make sure that none of the already packaged boxes contained a recalled product. Go Pantry is a great local organization helping with food insecurity for kids. Watch for more information about supporting our collection for Go Pantry in March!









### PRAYER AND REFLECTION

### **UPCOMING FAITH OPPORTUNITIES**

We will pray a decade of the Rosary on Thursday, February 20 at 7:45 a.m.

We will celebrate Mass in the chapel on Friday, February 21 at 7:20 a.m. All are welcome.

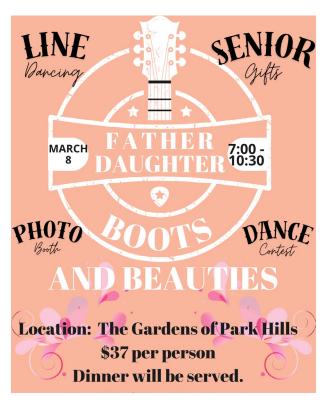


### ATTENTION SENIOR PARENTS

### REMINDER

**Senior Parents -** a reminder that parent letters for the Senior Mission retreat were due on Wednesday, February 19. If you have not yet turned in your letter - please turn it into the office as soon as possible. Information was sent out via email on February 5 about this letter and can be found **here**.

# **Student Life**



### FATHER/DAUGHTER

### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Boots & Beauties: Father-Daughter Dance Get ready to dance the night away!

Join us for an unforgettable evening of dancing, laughter, and lasting memories at our Boots & Beauties Father-Daughter Dance! This special night is all about celebrating the bond between fathers and daughters with an evening full of fun, line dancing, and more.

### **Highlights of the Event**

- **Line Dancing:** Put on your boots and get ready to learn some fun moves together!
- **Dinner:** Enjoy a delicious meal while spending quality time with your special someone.
- **Senior Gifts:** A heartfelt gift for each senior, as a token of appreciation for this memorable night.
- **Fun & Memories:** Create priceless moments with photo opportunities, games, and surprises!

Registration for the 2025 Father/Daughter Dance: Boots and Beauties is now open. It will close on February 26 as we have to submit the final count to the caterer.

The dance will be held on Saturday, March 8 from 7 until 10:30 p.m. at The Gardens of Park Hills. Be sure to check out the flyer to the left and register **HERE**.

Senior PaNDAs - Please submit a baby picture to Mrs. Timmerding if you plan to attend the event. You can submit it via email or give her a hard copy (she will return it to you).



### **ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

### FINALIZING DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

The academic calendar for next year will be finalized this week during various meetings with departments and committees of faculty and staff. An overview of the calendar will be shared next week in the PPW. The No School Calendar will be shared as we know that many families are already working on plans for next year. If you have specific questions, feel free to contact the office staff.



### **CONTINUING TRADITION**

### VOLLEYBALL GAME: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

NDA and CCH came together last Wednesday for their annual volleyball game with a shared purpose beyond the competition. Through their spirited rivalry, both schools united in a remarkable display of generosity, raising an impressive \$3,099.10 for the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky. This collaborative effort exemplifies the core values of compassion and community service instilled in the students of NDA and CCH. Their dedication to supporting those in need extends far beyond the volleyball court, leaving a lasting impact on the local community and embodying the spirit of giving central to their Catholic education. Ms. Kim Webb (Executive Director of the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky) was able to attend the event with us and speak to the students regarding the importance of the Emergency Shelter. She helped to begin our event and Father Hennigen gave us all a blessing as well. It was such a success and truly one of the favorites among the students.



Sophomore Class Ring Ceremony

### ATTENTION SOPHOMORES

### RING CEREMONY

On Tuesday, March 11, the Sophomore Class will be honored during a ring ceremony. The students will be able to bring in a ring that has special significance or one that was ordered to be her class ring. These items will be blessed and passed out to them from Mr. VonHandorf. Herff Jones is our official class ring provider and they visited our students back in November regarding ordering class rings. This is not a requirement though; students can bring in any ring that they wish to be blessed. If students do not bring in an item, then they will receive a medal that will be blessed at the ceremony. Just this week, the sophomore students were surveyed regarding their plans for the ring ceremony so medals can be ordered for those who will not have a class ring. Please encourage your daughter to complete the survey that was sent by Mrs. Timmerding.



### NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

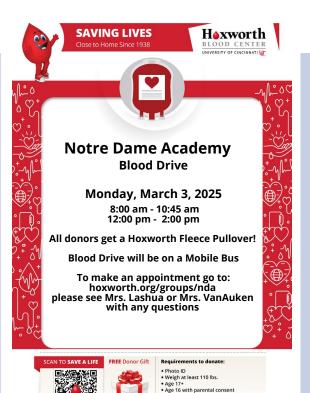
### CELEBRATING NDA SCHOLARS

Congratulations to our National Merit Finalists!

We are thrilled to announce that three of our outstanding NDA seniors, Anna Blair, Emma White, and Chanduni Herath, have advanced to National Merit Finalist status! This prestigious recognition honors their exceptional academic achievements, dedication, and hard work.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has named more than 15,000 Finalists in the 2025 National Merit® Scholarship Program.

Join us in celebrating Anna, Emma, and Chanduni on this remarkable achievement! We wish them continued success in their bright futures.



Learn more: hoxworth.org/donors/high-school

### **DONATE BLOOD: SAVE LIVES**

### NDA'S BLOOD DRIVE NEARS GOAL

Notre Dame Academy is just a few donations away from securing a \$500 grant from Hoxworth Blood Center! With 42 out of the 50 required donations, we are in the final stretch.

As part of this effort, NDA's Spring Blood Drive will take place on Monday, March 3. Sign ups are now open for students, faculty, and staff who wish to participate in this lifesaving mission.

Students under 18 must obtain a permission slip and review donor guidelines before signing up. Please see Mrs. Tish Lashua for details.

Can't make it to NDA's blood drive? Anyone in the community can donate at their most convenient Hoxworth location and name Notre Dame Academy to have their donation count toward our goal.

Thank you to all who have donated or plan to donate—your generosity makes a difference!



Hoxworth Blood Center, University of Cincinnati
3130 Highland Ave., 4th Floor, Cincinnati, OH 45267-0055
(513) 451-0910

### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

# THE ANNUAL ORANGE AND WHITE GAME

As has been the tradition for six years, the students of St. Ursula and Notre Dame Academy are honored to participate in the Orange and White Flag Football Game on Sunday, April 27. This event will be held at St. Ursula this year.

This has been a philanthropic partnership between the two schools to raise money for Childhood Cancer Research through Children's Hospital. The Bradley family is deeply connected to St. Ursula and they lost their daughter Natalie in 2009 to cancer. During the week prior to spring break, we will have Mrs. Bradley speak to the girls about the importance of this worthy cause. We will celebrate our students who are participating in the game and encourage the students to attend and show their school spirit for such an important cause. It is a fun event at NDA and all are encouraged to attend and show their support for childhood cancer research.







# CONGRATULATIONS FACULTY NEWS

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the recent accomplishments and professional development pursuits of our dedicated faculty. Their commitment to growth and excellence directly benefits our students and strengthens our academic community.

# Ms. Stacey Bill Earns National Recognition and Presents at Regional & International Conferences

Ms. Stacey Bill, our World Language Department Chair and Spanish teacher, has been awarded a Travel Stipend to attend the prestigious American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) Conference in Panamá this June! This award, granted after a rigorous application process highlighting her dedication to professional growth and our school's long-standing participation in the National Spanish Exam, is a testament to her commitment to excellence in Spanish language instruction, and she will be recognized at a special ceremony at the conference.

In addition to this exciting news, Profe Bill will be sharing her expertise at two upcoming conferences. She will be leading a virtual workshop for the Kentucky World Language Association on February 27, presenting "Playing with Language: Creative Writing Across Levels to Increase Student Engagement." This engaging workshop, focused on innovative teaching strategies, is the same topic she will be presenting at the "Global Goals, Global Languages" Central States Conference for the Foreign Language Association in Kansas City this March. We applaud her initiative in sharing best practices with educators across the region.

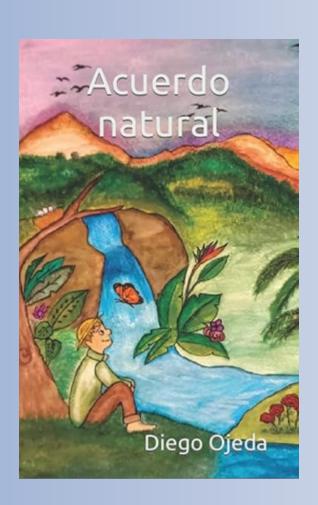
Congratulations, Profe Bill on both of these outstanding accomplishments and thank you for your continued commitment to student and professional learning.

# Our Teachers as AP Readers: A Valuable Professional Development Experience

We are thrilled to announce that Ms. Stacey Bill and Ms. Katie Hilbert have been selected by the College Board as AP Readers for AP Spanish Language and AP Pre-Calculus, respectively. This appointment not only recognizes their expertise but also provides them with invaluable professional development opportunities.

Serving as an AP Reader is widely regarded as one of the most impactful learning experiences for AP educators. Our teachers will gain firsthand experience in applying official AP rubrics, and this deep dive into the assessment process provides invaluable insight into student performance. Beyond refining their assessment skills, our AP Readers will gain exposure to student responses from across the country, offering a unique opportunity to understand the strengths and weaknesses of student work on a national level and how these trends may inform their own instructional practice.

We are grateful for Profe Bill's and Ms. Hilbert's willingness to choose to take on this important role and bring their enhanced expertise back to our students.



### **GRANT-FUNDED BOOKS**

# SPANISH STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH POETRY

At the end of last year, the Spanish Department received a grant to purchase supplementary materials for enrichment. With the \$500 from Vista Higher Learning, we purchased two classroom sets of poetry books. What made these books so unique is that they were written by Diego Ojeda, a native Colombia, who teaches at a school in Louisville, KY. In fact, Ms. Stacey Bill and Sr. Maria Francine both attended a workshop earlier this year in which Mr. Ojeda talked about various teaching methods. One of the books is called Acuerdo Natural and is about appreciation and respect for nature. Since the Spanish 3 classes were learning vocabulary related to ecology and the environment, the topic of the book was very pertinent. First, each pair of students studied the poem they were randomly given. They prepared to read the poem out loud to the class, state its main idea, and answer a question about the poem. In this way, students were actually given printed material and saw their vocabulary in use. The exercise stretched them because of the nature of poetic thought. Yet it was impressive to see that, after less than three years, students were able to comprehend ideas of a complex nature in a second language. It encouraged the students to see that the words and ideas about which they were learning were in published form!



### **SPANISH 4 STUDENTS**

### DEBATING ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS IN SPANISH

This past week Spanish 4/Dual Credit researched two environmental laws, one from Mexico and one from Spain, and did a debate. The students had to research the laws then decide whether they wanted to argue in favor or against the law. They did a fantastic job staying in the target language for their debates! They made signs and prepared well by studying both sides' arguments and perspectives. Senior Julianna Shriver stated afterward, "The Spanish debate was a very new and exciting experience! I enjoyed being put outside of my comfort zone, while testing the knowledge I have learned over the course of four years at NDA."

# INTERESTED IN LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES?

### **INFORMATION SESSION**

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Student Council moderators (Ms. Hilbert and Mrs. Kroger) and Mrs. Timmerding will hold an informational session for students interested in leadership opportunities at NDA. We will discuss the leadership options which are offered to students in both the Student Council, the Family System, and the Core Leadership Team (something new we offered this year). We encourage all students who might be willing to play key roles in the development of activities at our school to attend this information session. It will be held on Monday, February 24 during homeroom time in the Theatre. Additional information will be sent as the date approaches.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ

### **WORKING TO STAY HEALTHY**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY REVIEW!**

It has become very apparent that our community is being hit drastically by the flu epidemic, stomach virus, COVID, and other easily transferable sicknesses. We appreciate the continued support of all of you with regard to keeping students home when it is suspected that she is ill. Thank you for being proactive to prevent the continuous spread of these illnesses.

Our students have a generous number of unexcused absences that are permitted. Students can accumulate sixteen unexcused absences for a full year course and eight for a half year course. Please continue to monitor how your daughter is feeling and we will be glad to work with you if she needs to stay home. A few parents have asked about the policy for make-up work and while there is not a definitive policy in the handbook regarding this, the teachers are always understanding and flexible. The Student Services Team (Guidance Counselors) can also help with assignment tracking if students miss a lot of days in a row. This seemed like the perfect time for this reminder!

In addition, please remind your daughters that our nurses are here daily to assist them with any health concerns they might have. If she is not feeling well, she is to report to the nurse who can help to guide her in going home, resting at school for a bit, taking medication, etc. Please encourage your daughter not to contact you directly unless she has visited the nurse.



### SENIOR GRADE LEVEL INFORMATION

# EXCITING EVENTS AHEAD FOR OUR GRADUATING SENIORS!

Senior year is full of unforgettable moments, and there's a fantastic lineup of events coming up for the Class of 2024-25! From special dances to graduation ceremonies, there's something for every senior to look forward to. Check out the full list of events and details on our website at the Senior Grade Level Information Page **HERE**.



### **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**.



### SHOP ONLINE TODAY

### **BAMBOOTIQUE**

Get all of your Panda spirit wear at NDA's Bambootique! Stop by the Bambootique or shop online **HERE**.



### 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.



### **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.

- \* 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.



# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

### FROM THE DESK OF THE

### ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



### Archery -

We had a solid showing this weekend at our first of two 3D tournaments this season. Of the individual high school girls, we had 1 in the top 5, 2 in the top 10 and 6 in the top 30! 3D is a different animal (pun intended) but this was a good first attempt. We will move back to bullseye targets this week and then back to 3D next week.

### Basketball -

The team lost to George Rogers Clark on Saturday. We have 2 more games before the District Tournament, Assumption on 2/18 and Sacred Heart on 2/20. The next game will be Feb. 27 at Holy Cross for the District Finals. The first round of the regional tournament will be at NKU on Sunday March 2nd. Time to be announced at a later date



### Indoor Track and Field -

Our Indoor Track team will be competing in their final indoor meet before the KHSAA State Meet, this weekend. It is at Mount St. Joe's. We wish them continued success!



### Swim and Dive -

Diving will participate in their KHSAA State meet at UK on Thursday Feb. 20th. We wish our Dive team well!

Swimming will be representing Notre Dame at the KHSAA State Meet on Friday Feb. 21st. We are excited to watch them compete and wish them well too!



### **Spring Sports -**

Tennis, Lacrosse, Softball and Outdoor track and field have started their season! more to follow!

## **COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES**





### **SPREADING HOPE**

# NDA'S HOPE SQUAD LEADS A WEEK OF POSITIVITY AND CONNECTION

This past week NDA's Hope Squad celebrated Hope Week. Hope Squad is a peer to peer suicide prevention group where peer-nominated members are trained to note signs of distress and reach out, connecting peers to help and hope. Hope Squad's mission is to educate the entire student body to reduce stigma and change their school's culture. This week, Hope Squad hosted various activities to help students prioritize self-care, connection, and support.

Monday, the Hope Squad served root beer floats at lunch letting students know Hope Squad is "rooting for you"! Tuesday, there was a Hope Heart scavengar hunt to provude facts about mental health and suicide prevention. On Wednesday, Hope Squad promoted a simple yet powerful way to spread positivity by "clipping" peers with clothespins that included positive messages to pass along to friends. Thursday the Hope Squad promoted the importance of generosity and raised \$1,349.50 for the DCCH HALO program and Hope Squad with an out of uniform day. Friday, students were encouraged to write a Valentine for a friend so others can know that they are important and they matter.

You can find the Hope Squad roster attached here to see the group of Pandas behind this initiative. We hope everyone at school had fun, made a new connection, and feels like they made a difference by contributing to breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide.



### NAVIGATING THE FUTURE

# NDA HOSTS COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT FOR PARENTS

Thursday, March 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Notre Dame Academy is hosting a College Information Night for the next Panda Parent Club Meeting, available to all NDA and CCH parents. The event will include three different presentations with various topics such as career exploration, financing post secondary education, and college preparation. Jennie LaMothe and Lorraine O'Moore from Learning Grove will be presenting on how to support your student in exploring post secondary options and career planning. They will share the value of utilizing YouScience as a tool to support students and parents in the process. Dan Bisig from College and Beyond will be presenting on "College Affordability", the do's and don'ts of navigating the financial aid world, how to complete the FAFSA, and what it takes for students to earn merit-based scholarships. In collaboration with CCH, Jess Brown and Erin Stanley will be sharing school-specific information about the college application process, what to expect with timelines, deadlines, and how to create a balanced College List. Registration is not required and we hope to see you all there! Please reach out to Erin Stanley at stanleye@ndapandas.org with questions.







### **BREAKING THE SILENCE**

# NDA PRIORITIZES MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10-24. There are three female suicide attempts for every male attempt. Twenty percent of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental illness. These shocking numbers show why talking about mental health and suicide prevention is of the utmost importance. Every year, each student at NDA receives Suicide Prevention during a grade level meeting or classroom presentation. Students are encouraged to reach out to a parent, member of Hope Squad, or a safe adult in the building if they, or someone they know, is struggling. The counselors are always available to help support students and partner with parents to ensure the well being and safety of students.

### **Suicide Prevention Resources**

NDA's **Panda Parent Toolbox** has a wealth of resources and information for parents. The **Suicide Prevention Resource Center** is a great place to start and the **CDC** has a lot of great articles for parents. **Here** is a helpful quick guide for what parents can do to help prevention suicide.

Q.P.R. is an emergency response framework for supporting someone in a mental health crisis. Participants in this training learn how to question a person about suicide, persuade someone to get help, and refer someone to appropriate resources. It is designed to train anyone who is in a position to prevent suicide, including parents, teachers, caregivers, mentors, and coaches. To register for an upcoming FREE VIRTUAL session hosted by a local organization called 1n5, click here.

Students have a list of emergency contacts in their lanyards that are available 24/7 via phone or text. These include:

- · Crisis Text Line: 741741; text "Talk"
- Suicide (24 hours): 988 or 800-273-TALK (8255)
- · Report Bullying/Violence: 866-393-6659
- · Child Abuse: (877) 597-2331
- Sexual Assault/Rape: (859) 491-3335
- · Eating Disorders: NEDA website
- · Pregnancy: (859) 341-0766 (New Hope Center)
- Poison: (800) 222-1222 #3
- Drug/Alcohol Problems: (800) 662-4357 (SAMHSA)
- National Runaway Safeline: (800) 786-2929
- · All other emergencies: 911
- · NDA Rally Point Number: (859) 292-7724

Don't ever hesitate to reach out to one of the counselors if you feel like your child is struggling. They can be contacted at **counselors@ndapandas.org**.



### 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.

# **ADVANCING THE MISSION**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND NOTRE DAME ACADEMY'S TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL

# W<u>omen Making A Differe</u>nce

AWARD LUNCHEON 2025

Thursday, March 6, 2025 St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center (SETEC)

3861 Olympic Blvd. Erlanger KY, 41018

11:00 A.M. Registration & Networking 12:00 P.M. Luncheon & Awards Ceremony

Honoring NDA Alumnae for the contributions they have made to their families, communities and beyond.

2025 Women Making A Difference Honorees



Marianne Cohen Fieger 1962



Sharon Stahl Harris 1975



Lauren Simendinger Wang 2002



2025 Sr. Reina Award Honorees

Jerry and Susan Arnold Von Handorf 1966

### 2025 WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### NDA HONORS ALUMNAE

We are excited to announce our upcoming Twenty-fourth Annual Women Making A Difference Award Luncheon that will honor NDA alumnae and NDA community members for their contributions they have made to their families, communities and beyond. It's a day to reflect on the legacy and power of an all-girls education in shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025

Location: St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center (SETEC) 3861 Olympic Blvd, Erlanger, KY 41018

Time: 11:00 a.m. Networking Hour and 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon and Award Ceremony

**How Can You Participate?** 

**Attend the Luncheon:** Join us for a heartwarming and inspiring afternoon, where we celebrate the extraordinary efforts of our alumnae and strengthen the bonds of our community.

**Become a Sponsor:** We offer a variety of sponsorship levels that provide excellent visibility for your business or organization while supporting a meaningful cause.

If you'd like to learn more about registering to attend or event sponsorship opportunities, please visit <u>www.ndapandas.org/alumnae/events</u> or call (859) 292-7729.



### **SHARING OUR**

### **Community News**

You can find a complete list of community news. HERE.

Just a Click Away Monitoring the Risks and Rewards of Gaming and Apps for Our Youth

# **Important dates**

February 20 Rosary in Chapel 7:45 a.m.

February 21 Mass in Chapel 7:20 a.m.

February 24 Student Life Information Session during Homeroom

March 2 Junior Lent Retreat

March 6 Service Fair

Women Making a Difference Luncheon at SETEC

March 7 End of 3rd Quarter

Spring Sports Pep Rally

March 8 8th Grade Conferences

March 11 Super Day

March 14 NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day

March 18 Panda Preview Night

March 20 Athletic Hall of Fame

March 22 8th Grade Conferences

April 17 - 25 NO SCHOOL - Easter Break

April 27 Orange and White - SUA

May 15 Arts Fest 5:30 p.m.

May 22 Last Day of School

May 23 Graduation