



THE *nda* LIFE

## Dear Parents,

We're halfway through our first week of school and it is great to see how quickly our students, faculty and staff have settled back into the school routine. The energy and enthusiasm our students have brought to the halls of Notre Dame Academy this week have made for a vibrant and exciting start to the year. It's evident that they are eager to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

This year, we are guided by a new school theme: *"Love God. Love Others. Change the World."* This theme captures the essence of our Catholic values and educational mission and is deeply rooted in the second Educational Principle of the Sisters of Notre Dame, which emphasizes *"The Human Dignity of Each Person as an Image of God."*

At NDA, we believe in the inherent worth and uniqueness of every individual. This year's theme calls us to appreciate, respect and reverence the diversity among all persons. We are committed to supporting a holistic education that encourages a positive sense of self-worth and the full development of each student. By recognizing the image of God in every person, we strive to practice respectful listening and availability in all our interactions.

Our goal is to create a welcoming atmosphere that fosters unity and community. By building strong relationships and providing nurturing environments, we help individuals claim and regain their human dignity, identity and self-worth. Through the theme *"Love God. Love Others. Change the World,"* we are reminded that our faith calls us to action. We are inspired to live out these values in our daily lives, transforming not only ourselves but also the world around us. As we begin on this academic year, let us unite in our commitment to embody this theme, making a positive impact on our community and beyond.

I encourage you to take some time to read this week's edition of the Panda Press Weekly. It's packed with important information and is an invaluable resource for both parents and students each week. Staying informed is essential, and we're committed to maintaining strong communication with our NDA families.

Looking ahead, I'd like to remind you that tomorrow is the Feast of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation. Students will have the day off from school, providing a wonderful opportunity for families to attend Mass together. Additionally, we will have our first All-School Mass on Friday, where we will come together as a community to celebrate our faith.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



*From the Desk of*  
**Mrs. Jane Kleier**

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year at Notre Dame Academy. As we begin the academic year, I want to take a moment to recognize the strong values, rich traditions and dedication to spiritual, academic and personal growth that make NDA so exceptional. Our steadfast commitment to Catholic education and our mission to nurture and empower young women to make a difference in the world are what truly set our community apart. I'm excited for all we will achieve together this year, guided by our shared faith and values.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Parent Nights last week. Your involvement is crucial to our success and I look forward to continuing our partnership throughout the school year. The Panda Press Weekly is one of the many ways we stay connected and effective communication is vital to our community. I encourage you to read it each week to stay informed and engaged with all that's happening at NDA.

I would also like to provide an update on the presidential search at NDA. Our Board of Directors has engaged Gilman Partners, a well-established executive search and leadership development firm based in Cincinnati with more than 40 years of experience, to lead the effort in finding our next president. While this process is challenging, our goal is to have a new president in place by the beginning of the second semester. In the meantime, I will continue to serve as Interim President/CCO. We will keep you informed as the process progresses and greatly appreciate your support during this time.

Please know that my door is always open. I welcome your thoughts, suggestions and concerns as we work together to provide the best Catholic education for your daughter. Your support means so much to me and to the entire NDA community.

As a Catholic high school, we close each day at NDA in prayer, reflecting on our day's work and seeking God's grace. I've included our afternoon prayer below, and I invite you to read this special prayer that we share with our students:

***Afternoon Prayer***

*As this school day draws to a close, Lord, I reflect with satisfaction on my accomplishments. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do honorable work. Where I have succeeded in being a true Christian, I am grateful. Where I have failed, I beg your forgiveness. I will not dwell on the work left undone, for with your grace, I will be here tomorrow to begin anew.*

Thank you for your continued dedication to Notre Dame Academy. Here's to a year filled with faith, learning and growth.

In Notre Dame,

Jane Kleier  
Interim President/CCO

# CAMPUS MINISTRY



## JOIN US IN FAITH

### CAMPUS MINISTRY

Our Opening School Mass will take place at 9:30 a.m. in the gym on Friday, August 16.

All are welcome to join us in praying a decade of the rosary on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:45 a.m. in the chapel. This is a great way to start our day in prayer.

We will celebrate Mass in the chapel on most Tuesday and Friday mornings at 7:20 a.m. beginning the week of August 19.

Fr. Kunath will be available for confessions on Tuesdays during PPT beginning the week of August 26. On the first Tuesday of each month we will also hold Adoration in the chapel during PPT.

## GUIDELINES & OPPORTUNITIES

### SERVICE



The service guidelines and requirements for the 2024/25 school year can be found [here](#).

Service Opportunities are called into the Campus Ministry Office quite frequently. Any opportunities are posted on [this shared page](#). Students have access to this information through the weekly padlet.

If students have questions or need help with their Mobile Serve Account - they are encouraged to reach out via email to Mrs. Price. Mrs. Price is also available in the cafeteria during both lunches on Mondays.

## CLASSROOM SUPPLY DRIVE FOR NDUEC: AUGUST 19-23 AUGUST OUTREACH COLLECTION

Next week, August 19-23, our Family Leadership team will be collecting classroom supplies for the Notre Dame Urban Education Center.

NDUEC is in need of the following items: 2" binders, markers, wide-ruled paper, wide-ruled notebooks, Black/blue pens, Hard/Soft Pencil Cases, Scissors, highlighters, Elmer's Glue, glue sticks, Rocket Erasers, Pink Erasers, Plastic Pocket Folders, Dry Erase Markers, Colored Pencils, Copy Paper.

More information about when to donate will be shared with the students later this week. Students should check next week's padlet for more information. There will be a dress down day where students who bring in these items or \$3.00 will be able to dress down. \*\*Seniors who bring their "kid's backpack" from the first day of school on the dress down day will be able to dress down.







GET INVOLVED IN CAMPUS MINISTRY PANDAS!

## SIGN UP TO SERVE IN OUR LITURGIES AND PRAYER SERVICES

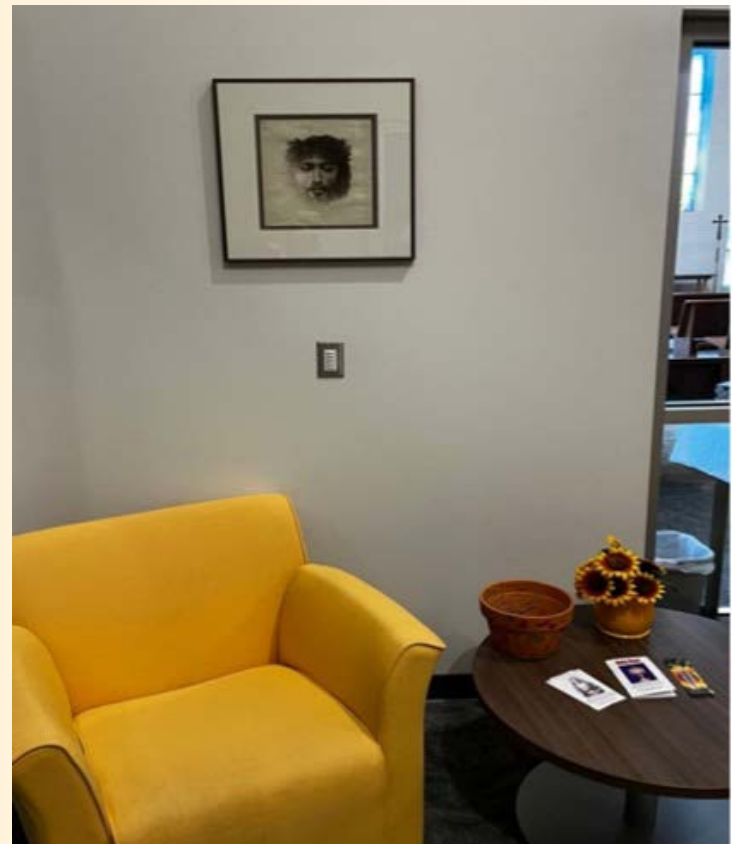
Pandas, if you are interested in helping with the various ministries at our All School and Family/grade level Masses and Prayer Services throughout the year - please take a moment to complete [this survey](#) so that you can be added to our lists. Your participation in our liturgies is so appreciated and really helps to build our community. If you have any questions, feel free to ask your religion teacher or email Mrs. Price at [priceb@ndapandas.org](mailto:priceb@ndapandas.org).

HONORING FAITH AND INSPIRING REFLECTION

## NEW CHAPEL ADDITIONS

We are grateful for the addition of a few new images for our chapel space. An Alumna from the class of 1950, Margaret Kohl, created and donated 2 pieces: A stitching of the Face of Mary (which has hung for many years in Heritage Hall and has now been moved to the vestibule of the chapel) and a stitching of the Face of Christ (which has recently been donated and placed in the reflection space of our chapel). You can read the full story about Margaret Kohl and her beautiful donations to NDA [HERE](#).

We have also added icons of each of our family saints to the vestibule area of the chapel. We pray that these images will help to draw our community into a deeper reflection on the lives of Jesus, Mary and the Saints and inspire us to live out our call to holiness daily at NDA.





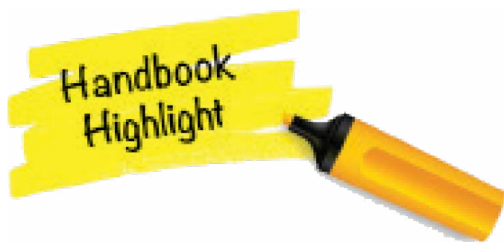
# FIRST DAY!

What a fantastic first day of the 2024-25 school year at NDA! It's incredible to have our Pandas back on campus, filling the halls with so much energy and enthusiasm. The day was filled with smiles, laughter and the joy of reconnecting with friends and fellow Pandas. Our students brought a spirited vibe that reminded us all why NDA is such a special place! Here's to a year of learning, spiritual growth and making unforgettable memories together.



Photos by NDA alumna Katie Stratman, Class of 2016, a talented Sports Photographer for USA TODAY Sports Images.

# Student Life



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### STUDENT HANDBOOK UPDATES

The Student / Parent Handbook linked to Final Forms was last year's handbook. If you already completed your Final Forms documents, the signature on the Student Handbook & Agreement section was cleared at 4:30 yesterday. We had to update Final Forms with our new handbook as well as the [document summarizing the updates](#) which requires that all parents and students must resign. Please sign off at [Final Forms](#) once you and your daughter have reviewed the updates.

## ATTENTION PANDA PARENTS

### IN CASE YOU MISSED PARENT MEETINGS...

You can find the documents which highlight events and activities pertinent to your daughter's class here:

[Freshman Information Sheet](#)

[Sophomore Information Sheet](#)

[Junior Information Sheet](#)

[Senior Information Sheet](#)

To view the entire school calendar, visit our website or click [HERE](#). Calendar events will also be shared in the weekly Panda Press. Your daughter will also receive a weekly Padlet with information to help her plan for her week. NDA's Student/Parent Handbook is now available through our website [HERE](#). Please use this resource if you need help navigating school policies or procedures.



## SAY CHEESE

### SCHOOL PICTURES

School Pictures will be taken on Friday, September 6. Please scan the QR code to the left to pre order your daughter's school pictures.



PLEASE NOTE!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS PARENT MINI NIGHT

Please join us on Thursday, September 12 for Parent Mini-Night in the evening. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be a wonderful opportunity to walk your daughter's schedule and meet her teachers. Students will be provided with this schedule on the Tuesday prior and should make a copy and create their own schedule for you. We will follow a Monday class schedule. Parents will have the opportunity to learn of the policies and procedures for the class, content to be taught, etc. We look forward to seeing you.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FILTERING

We implemented a new tool to filter internet access on the iPads. This tool will require that filtering rules remain in effect regardless of the Wi-Fi network used, including when connected phones as a hotspot or at home. Other methods have been attempted to filter content while the students are at school, however those efforts have been unsuccessful. This is the only tool that we have to make this occur. Our Diocesan Policy states that student devices must have internet filtering, so this option was necessary. Netflix and streaming services will be accessible when students are at home. Filtering was turned on Tuesday afternoon (Aug 13), so students may notice a change in what they are able to access from their iPads at home tonight. As this is a new tool, some adjustments to the filtering may be necessary. Should your daughter encounter a block on something important for school, please have her inform us at [help@ndapandas.org](mailto:help@ndapandas.org), and we will investigate the issue.



## THE FIRST OF MANY LASTS... SENIOR RA! SHIMMERE, SHIMMERRA...! SENIOR CAR PAINTING

On Sunday evening the Class of 2025 gathered to paint their cars in preparation for the beginning of a new school year. There was a lot of great energy and our seniors had fun getting their cars ready for their final year at NDA!





## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

# CARPOOL INFORMATION

If your daughter plans on riding with an NDA student driver at the end of the day, please complete the carpool form found [HERE](#). Once the form is completed, your daughter will receive a new colored ID holder. She will need to show the blue or gold colored ID holder to her last period teacher each day in order to dismiss with an earlier grade.



## FIRST MIXER OF THE YEAR!

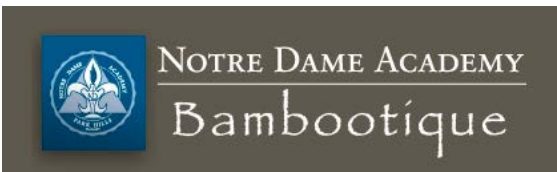
# PAJAMA PARTY

Student Council will be hosting the first social event of the year on Friday, August 16 from 8:00 - 10:30 p.m. in the auditorium. There will be a DJ and the evening is a great opportunity to connect with new and old friends! Guests from other schools are welcome. Be sure to dress in your pajamas! Keep in mind that dress code rules still apply. Please be sure that the pajamas are school appropriate and midriffs are not shown; shorts must be long enough. The cost is \$5 per person.

## PANDA SPIRIT WEAR!

# BAMBOOTIQUE

The Bambootique is having 10% off on all PJ items to celebrate our 1st mixer of the school year. You can shop online [HERE](#).



**PLEASE NOTE!**

## ATTENTION WORK STUDY AND VOLUNTEERS

# LIVE VIRTUS TRAINING SCHEDULE

[HERE](#) is the latest Live Virtus training schedule. Please note that all individuals participating in work-study or volunteering at NDA must be Virtus trained. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Leanne Kirn at 859-292-1820.





**SAVING LIVES**

Close to Home Since 1938

**Hoxworth**  
BLOOD CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI



## Notre Dame Academy Blood Drive

**Wednesday, August 21, 2024**

**9:30 am - 11:45 am  
1:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

**All donors get a 40oz Hoxworth Tumbler!**

**Blood Drive will be on a Mobile Bus**

**To make an appointment go to:  
[hoxworth.org/groups/nda](http://hoxworth.org/groups/nda)  
please see Mrs. Lashua with questions**



**SCAN TO SAVE A LIFE**



**FREE Donor Gift**



**Requirements to donate:**

- Photo ID
- Weigh at least 110 lbs.
- Age 17+
- Age 16 with parental consent
- Comply with donor eligibility requirements

**Learn more:** [hoxworth.org/donors/high-school](http://hoxworth.org/donors/high-school)

Hoxworth Blood Center, University of Cincinnati  
3130 Highland Ave., 4th Floor, Cincinnati, OH 45267-0055

[hoxworth.org](http://hoxworth.org)  
(513) 451-0910



**BE A SUPERHERO**

## **DONATE BLOOD & EARN A \$500 GRANT FOR NDA!**

Hoxworth Blood Center is offering a fantastic opportunity for Notre Dame Academy to earn a \$500 grant! If we can generate 50 blood donations in our honor by October 27, we will be eligible for this grant.

### **The Challenge:**

Gather 50 or more students, family, friends or alumnae to donate blood in NDA's name at NDA's Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 21 at NDA or at any of Hoxworth's seven Neighborhood Donor Centers. The winning schools will be presented with a check live on Local 12 TV!

### **Where to Donate:**

At NDA's Blood drive on August 21 OR at one of Hoxworth's seven Neighborhood Donor Centers:

- Anderson: 7715 Five Mile Road
- Blue Ash: 9708 Kenwood Road
- Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky: 2220 Grandview Drive
- Tri-County: 11812 Springfield Pike
- Central: 3130 Highland Avenue
- North: 7844 Kingland Drive
- West: 6323 Glenway Avenue

### **Schedule Your Donation:**

Visit [hoxworth.org](http://hoxworth.org) or call (513) 451-0910. Be sure to mention Notre Dame Academy when you donate!

Let's come together as a community to meet this challenge, save lives, and earn a \$500 grant for our school. Go Pandas!

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO PAOLA SPICUZZA**

## **RECIPIENT OF THE AUBREY ROSE FOUNDATION'S ABOVE AND BEYOND SCHOLARSHIP**

NDA sophomore Paola Spicuzza was awarded the Above and Beyond Scholarship by the Aubrey Rose Foundation, a charitable organization that raises funds to help children who have life-threatening illnesses. Paola earned this award because of her efforts to raise funds to support a five-year-old boy with leukemia. During one weekend this summer, Paola spoke at every Mass at her parish, St. Cecilia, and then sold bracelets and cookies after each Mass to raise money. Paola was featured on Channel 12's "What's Happening in Health" along with other Aubrey Rose Foundation Scholarship winners. Congratulations Paola! Keep making a difference!

*(Left: Paola with Nancy Hollenkamp, founder of the Aubrey Rose Foundation)*



# FINE ARTS NEWS



## NO AUDITION REQUIRED JOIN NDA'S CHOIR

NDA's choir is open to all students, freshmen through seniors, and no audition is needed. If you would like to join or have questions, please email Mrs. Chandler [chandlerk@ndapandas.org](mailto:chandlerk@ndapandas.org).

## SIGN UP FOR CAST AND CREW SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO & JULIET

### Auditions:

**Tuesday, August 20 - Thursday, August 22 afterschool**  
**(time slot sign up)**

### Tech Sign Ups:

**Fill out form by Aug 20**

### **Show Description:**

An age-old vendetta between two powerful families erupts into bloodshed. A group of masked Montagues risk further conflict by gatecrashing a Capulet party. A young lovesick Romeo Montague falls instantly in love with Juliet Capulet, who is due to marry her father's choice, the Count Paris. With the help of Juliet's nurse, the women arrange for the couple to marry the next day, but Romeo's attempt to halt a street fight leads to the death of Juliet's own cousin, Tybalt, for which Romeo is banished. In a desperate attempt to be reunited with Romeo, Juliet follows the Friar's plot and fakes her own death. After a series of misfortunes and woe, the pair of star-crossed lovers take their lives.





# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



## ORDER YOUR T-SHIRT TODAY PLAYING FOR A PURPOSE

Show your support for a great cause by ordering your Playing for a Purpose t-shirt! These shirts are not only a way to stand in solidarity with our community but also a great way to spread awareness. Don't miss out—order your shirt today by clicking [HERE](#).



## NOMINATION TIME ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

We're happy to announce that Notre Dame Academy will be hosting its Athletic Hall of Fame event this fall! This is an incredible opportunity for us to honor and celebrate the outstanding achievements of individuals who have left a lasting impact on our community.

If you know a former Panda athlete who deserves recognition for her exceptional athletic contributions to NDA, we invite you to nominate her for consideration [HERE](#).



Join Notre Dame Academy  
Bowling Camp

Open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from St. Joseph  
(Crescent Springs) St. Agnes, Blessed  
Sacrament, St. Pius X and Prince of Peace

August 27 – 29, 2024  
3:30 – 5:30  
Erlanger Strikes/Spares

No cost to attend

Contact Head Coach David Hampton  
hamptond@ndapandas.org

## NDA BOWLING IS LOOKING FOR YOU! NDA BOWLING CAMP

Looking for 6th-7th-8th graders from feeder schools who would be attending Notre Dame Academy. **No cost open bowling!**

Location: Erlanger Strike / Spares

Dates: August 27, 28, 29 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) From 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact Head Coach: David Hampton [hamptond@ndapandas.org](mailto:hamptond@ndapandas.org)



## STAY IN THE GAME WATCH NDA ATHLETICS ON HUDL

Don't miss out on any of NDA's athletic action—catch all the excitement at NDA Athletics this school year on Hudl [HERE](#).

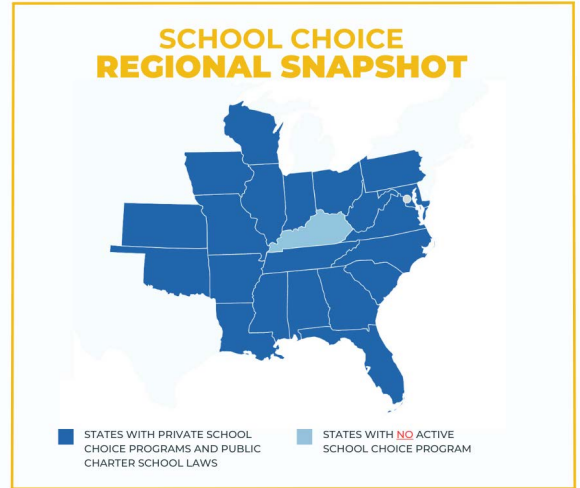


## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

### VOTE YES ON 2

Be a part of history! Kentucky residents will have the opportunity to vote YES for Amendment 2, which will give parents more say in their child's education. We need your help to get the word out! Consider joining our grassroots effort to pass Amendment 2. Visit <https://covdio.org/yesontwo/> to learn more and volunteer your time.

Learn more [HERE](#).



# COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



DRUG FREE CLUB - JOIN TODAY!

## “MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE EASY”

The time is NOW to sign up for Drug Free Clubs of America (DFCA). Drug Free Club is the largest club at Notre Dame Academy, with over 400 members last year. It offers confidential drug testing, education, school and community rewards, positive reinforcement, student leadership opportunities, parent support, and a safety net when dealing with drug situations by saying, “I can’t, I might be tested.” Parents can obtain more information and complete online applications on the Drug Free Club website found [here](#). For more information about how Drug Free Club works at Notre Dame Academy, please reach out to school counselor Erin Maggard at [maggarde@ndapandas.org](mailto:maggarde@ndapandas.org).





# ADVANCING THE MISSION



LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR NDA:

## A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

We are excited to announce our upcoming fall fundraiser, *Light the Night for NDA*, which will be held at The Grand Ballroom in Covington, Kentucky, on Saturday, November 16, 2024. This cherished event brings together our current and past parents as well as alumnae and community members for an evening of drinks, music, dinner and merriment.

Join us for this fun celebration of our mission, and let's *Light the Night for NDA* together! For more information, contact [Myanna Webster](#).

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING LIGHT THE NIGHT

## GIFT GATHERING CONTRIBUTIONS

As we prepare for Light the Night for NDA on November 16, we invite you to join us in making this event a success by contributing a gift for our auctions. We would love to see you at your grade level Gift Gathering Party or you can drop off gifts at the front office or contribute by selecting something from our [Amazon Wishlist](#). Your generosity plays a crucial role in ensuring the success of our biggest fundraiser of the year, helping us continue to provide exceptional opportunities for our students. Thank you for your continued partnership in our mission and Catholic community.

### Gift Gathering Parties:

Senior - August 21 at 6 p.m. - [RSVP](#)

Junior - TBD

Sophomore - TBD

Freshman - already held



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

- YES on 2

## Important dates

August 15	NO SCHOOL - Feast of the Assumption
August 16	Opening School Mass
September 2	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
September 6	Picture Day
September 7	Playing for a Purpose Volleyball
September 12	Alumnae Rosary 12:50 p.m. - All are welcome!
September 18	Donor Scholarship Breakfast
October 1	Foundation Day
October 11	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day
November 1	NO SCHOOL - All Saints' Day
November 5	NO SCHOOL - Election Day
November 10	Open House
November 16	Light the Night for NDA
November 27	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day
November 28-29	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break