



THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have a lot to celebrate and share with you this week!

Yesterday, we celebrated the Sisters of Notre Dame Foundation Day, an occasion that holds deep meaning for our school. This annual celebration is a time for us to reflect on the incredible legacy left by the Sisters who founded Notre Dame Academy, a legacy that continues to inspire everything we do. As part of this celebration, we were honored to receive recognition from Cognia for our 100 years of continuous accreditation. This award highlights the century-long commitment to academic excellence and Catholic values that NDA has upheld.

We concluded our celebration of SND Foundation Day with the official kickoff of our five-year Strategic Planning process, aptly named "*Rooted in Faith, Leading with Vision.*" This process will shape the future of NDA as we look ahead to the next phase of our growth and development. We are excited about the possibilities this initiative will bring and look forward to continuing the work of empowering young women to make a difference in the world.

In addition to these celebrations, I am incredibly proud to announce that NDA has earned the prestigious AP Honor Roll Gold recognition. This award highlights our efforts to expand AP opportunities for our students and promote a college-going culture within our school. Our AP program continues to provide students with the chance to earn college credit and prepare for future academic success. This recognition is a testament to the hard work of our students, faculty and staff who work together to create an environment where academic achievement is prioritized.

We also celebrate the recent achievements of two of our seniors, Chloe Dunham and Ashley Neltner, who have been recognized as National Merit Commended Students. Their dedication and academic excellence are inspiring, and we are thrilled to see them receive such a prestigious honor.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to provide the best possible educational experience for your daughters. Have a blessed week ahead and may we continue to build upon the wonderful legacy that has been entrusted to us by the Sisters of Notre Dame.

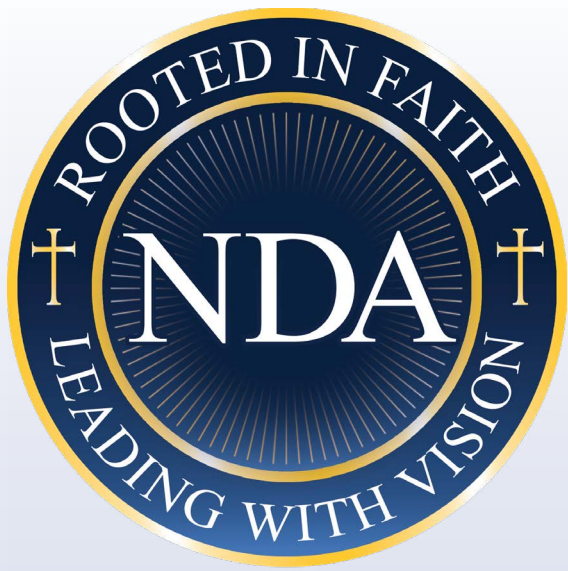
In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



SND FOUNDATION DAY!





NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
— STRATEGIC PLAN —
2025-2030

ROOTED IN FAITH: LEADING WITH VISION

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY KICKS OFF STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Notre Dame Academy officially launched its five-year Strategic Planning process last night, bringing together leadership, faculty, staff and Board members to chart the future direction of the school. The initiative, *Rooted in Faith, Leading with Vision*, reflects NDA's commitment to advancing its mission of educating young women to make a difference in the world while building on its rich legacy.

Led by Interim President/CCO Jane Kleier and facilitated by Mary Claire Kasunic from Partners in Mission, the Strategic Planning process will focus on eight key areas: Academics and Technology, Advancement, Catholic Identity, Enrollment, Facilities, Finances, Governance and Student Life. Each area will be thoroughly assessed by Domain Chairs and Staff Liaisons, gathering input from students, parents, faculty, alumnae and other stakeholders.

The goal of the Strategic Plan is to create a forward-thinking vision that ensures NDA thrives in the evolving landscape of Catholic education. Surveys have already been completed with strong participation, providing valuable insights to guide the process.

During the kickoff event, Domain Chairs received guidance on assessing each area using historical data and key information. The data gathered will be used to create narrative overviews for each domain, laying the foundation for NDA's future vision. A SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) will also help identify key areas for growth.

This effort will culminate in a Strategic Planning Workshop in late February, where objectives will be drafted to guide NDA over the next five years, ensuring the school remains true to its Catholic mission while evolving as a leader in education.

Jessica Rawe, Chair of the NDA Board, and Betsy Weber, Chair of the Mission Integration Committee, expressed gratitude for the NDA community's support. They emphasized the importance of input from all stakeholders in shaping a plan that addresses the school's future needs and continues to deliver an exceptional Catholic education.

The kickoff event took place on October 1, Foundation Day of the Sisters of Notre Dame, making it a particularly meaningful day to reflect on NDA's rich history and values. NDA invites the entire school community to stay engaged and help shape the future of the school through this collaborative process. Stay tuned for updates as the Strategic Plan progresses.

GREAT NEWS



AP School Honor Roll

2024



DISTINGUISHED HONOR

NDA EARNS PRESTIGIOUS AP HONOR ROLL GOLD RECOGNITION

Notre Dame Academy is proud to announce that we have been awarded the Gold recognition on the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) School Honor Roll for the 2023-2024 school year. This distinguished honor highlights our commitment to providing students with a college-going culture, creating pathways for academic excellence, and offering opportunities to earn college credit.

The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs successfully deliver results while broadening access for students. NDA's Gold status underscores our dedication to preparing students for college success through rigorous coursework, fostering critical thinking, and developing the skills necessary for academic achievement. Research shows that students who take AP courses and exams are more likely to attend and graduate from college on time. Students who enter college with AP credit also gain a head start toward graduation and build confidence for future academic success.

Notre Dame Academy offers a robust AP program with a wide range of courses designed to challenge students, preparing them for the demands of higher education. Our focus on academic excellence, combined with the support of our dedicated faculty, ensures that students have every opportunity to succeed.

We are incredibly proud of our students' efforts and our teachers' dedication, which have led to this prestigious recognition. Thank you to everyone in the NDA community for your continued commitment to fostering a culture of academic achievement. Let's celebrate this success together as we continue to empower young women to make a difference in the world.

CONGRATULATIONS

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS

We are thrilled to announce that two of our seniors, Chloe Dunham and Ashley Neltner, have been recognized as National Merit Commended Students! This prestigious honor acknowledges their outstanding academic achievements, dedication, and hard work. Being named as Commended Students places Chloe and Ashley among the top 50,000 high scorers out of over 1.5 million students who entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

We are so proud of their success and look forward to seeing the bright futures they will continue to build!



HONORING A CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE NDA RECOGNIZED FOR 100 YEARS OF ACCREDITATION BY COGNIA

Notre Dame Academy proudly celebrated a century of academic excellence on October 1, receiving recognition from Cognia for 100 years of continuous accreditation. This milestone was commemorated on NDA's Foundation Day, which celebrates the founding of the Sisters of Notre Dame and their lasting impact on the school's mission of educating young women to make a difference in the world.

Cognia, a global nonprofit organization dedicated to school improvement, honored NDA's century-long commitment to educational excellence. Ketsy Fields, Cognia Director for Kentucky, presented the award during the celebration. "This day helps ensure that future generations of NDA students have the opportunity to grow academically, spiritually, and personally," Ms. Fields said. "Cognia is honored and humbled to be your partner in fulfilling this mission and vision."

The recognition aligns with NDA's dedication to fostering both academic rigor and spiritual growth, a testament to the school's longstanding commitment to the holistic development of its students. Cognia, formerly known as SACS CASI and AdvancED, shares NDA's vision of continuous school improvement and ensuring every student receives the best possible education.

This momentous occasion took place on Foundation Day, a date that holds special significance for the school as it celebrates the founding of the Sisters of Notre Dame. The Sisters' legacy of education continues to thrive at NDA, as the school remains steadfast in its mission to empower young women to become leaders of faith, integrity, and purpose.

Notre Dame Academy is grateful for the recognition from Cognia and looks forward to continuing its tradition of excellence for the next 100 years.

CONGRATULATIONS

NDA STUDENTS HONORED IN COLLEGE BOARD'S NATIONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

We are excited to share that three of our exceptional students, Anna Blair, Annalise Gaffney, and Katherine Heuker, have been recognized by the College Board's National Recognition Program. This award highlights their outstanding academic achievements and hard work.

We are incredibly proud of these young women and their dedication to excellence. Congratulations to Anna, Annalise, and Katherine on this well-deserved honor!



CONGRATS!

CAMPUS MINISTRY



EXPLORING IMMIGRATION: A PERSONAL STORY CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Last week we covered the topic of Immigration in our Catholic Social Teaching Classes. We talked about the Church's Teaching on Immigration and the ways that we are called to treat all with dignity and respect. Mrs. Marcia Sullivan came in and shared her story on her journey of becoming a citizen of the United States after she immigrated from Ireland.

FRESHMAN *Retreat* GATHER · CONNECT · REVIVE

JOIN US

FRESHMEN RETREAT

The freshmen retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Notre Dame Academy's campus. Freshmen are allowed to dress down for the day, following the dress-down policy outlined in the student handbook. All freshmen should bring a packed lunch and drink, as cafeteria services will not be available. Additional details have been sent to freshmen via email this week.



JOIN US

OCTOBER SENIOR RETREAT

Notre Dame Academy's first Senior Retreat of the year will take place from October 14 to October 16 at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio. Parents of seniors attending this retreat should have received an email from Mrs. Price on Monday, September 30, with detailed information. If you did not receive the email, please contact Mrs. Price at priceb@ndapandas.org for assistance.



BLESSINGS

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR STUDENTS

Please pray for our students who will be making a retreat this month that they will be open to finding new ways to encounter Christ and live out their call to holiness.



MASS CHANGES AND ADORATION

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Due to the Priest Retreat and the Senior Retreat - we will not have **Mass** at 7:20 a.m. in our chapel until October 22.

We will have **Adoration** in our chapel on Tuesday, October 8 during PPT.

Student Life



PROTECTING ALL HUMAN LIFE

NDA STUDENTS AND FACULTY ATTEND ANNUAL DIOCESAN PRO-LIFE MASS

Last night, senior Greta Bitikofer, junior Stella Bitikofer and NDA faculty members, Mrs. Tish Lashua and Mrs. Theresa VanAuken, attended the annual Pro-Life Diocesan Mass at the Cathedral Basilica. This event brought our Catholic community together to reaffirm the sanctity of life.

It was a meaningful experience that highlighted our faith's commitment to defending life and inspiring our students and teachers to continue promoting a culture of life in our school and beyond. We are proud to see our students' participation in this important event. Let us continue to pray for the protection of all human life.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MOTHER/DAUGHTER DANCE!

Mark your calendars for November 22, our Mother / Daughter Event. We are considering something new this year rather than just a typical dance. Stay tuned for details! A great deal of help is needed to make this night a success. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Lisa Timmerding at timmerdingl@ndapandas.org.



Parent/ Teacher Conferences

October 22

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 22

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

We are pleased to announce that Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on October 22 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom. This is a great opportunity to connect with your daughter's teachers and discuss her academic progress. Sign-up details are available through MyConferenceTime [HERE](#). We look forward to meeting with you and working together to support your daughter's success.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DAY OFF FOR STUDENTS

On October 11, students will have the day off as our faculty and staff dedicate their time to a day of service, fully embracing our mission to make a meaningful impact in the world by serving others. Please be sure to mark your calendar!

CLUB ORIENTATION

SHOWCASING OUR ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Due to the inclement weather plan last week, we had to postpone our Club Orientation to this Friday. This week our students will have the opportunity to enjoy a fantastic assembly where our activities and clubs will be showcased for our students. At NDA, we offer 38 clubs and activities to our students. Drug Free Club, Green Dot, LIFE Club, Healthcare Professionals Club, and Investment Club are just a sampling of the opportunities offered to our girls. This assembly showcases each one, advertises their mission and goal, and informs the girls about their meetings. After the orientation, the students can complete a form to show their interest in the various clubs and activities that are offered. At NDA, the girls are challenged to take healthy risks, attempt new things, and branch out as they grow through their high school years.

Join the Club!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

FRESHMAN HALLOWEEN DANCE

Get ready for a spooky night of fun! On Friday, October 11, we'll be hosting a Halloween Dance with the freshmen from Covington Catholic. Here are the details:

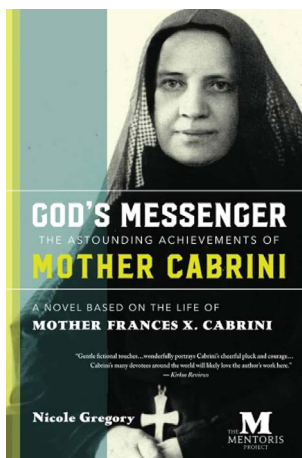
Time: 8:00-10:30 p.m. (Arrive by 8:30, and no one leaves before 10:00)

Place: Upper level of The Gardens next to CCH

Who: Only NDA and CCH freshmen (no other schools or grades)

What: Wear your best costume (everyone does!), enjoy fun decorations, prizes, food, drinks, and a DJ!

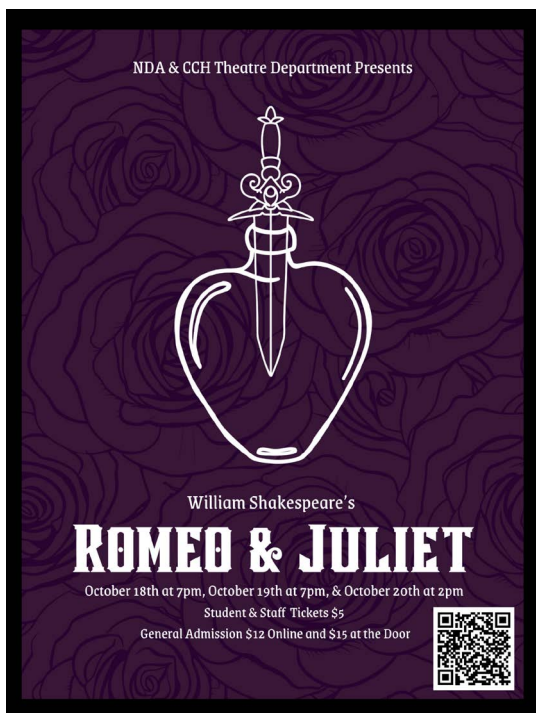
Tickets are only \$5 (cash only) and must be purchased in advance. Mrs. Monohan will be selling tickets during lunches next week and at other times to be announced.



A LOOK AHEAD

COMMON READER AND FOOD TRUCK DAY

Two amazing NDA traditions will be combined once again this year. Mark your calendars for October 17 when we will hold our annual Common Reader Day in conjunction with the Student Council planned Fall Food Truck Day. Students should watch for more information and be sure to finish reading our common reader titled, *God's Messenger, The Astounding Achievements of Mother Cabrini*. The English classes have enjoyed incorporating this common reader into their fall instructional plans.



NDA AND CCH PRESENT **SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO AND JULIET**

An age-old vendetta between two powerful families erupts into bloodshed. A group of masked Montagues risk further conflict by gate crashing 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.

Friday, October 18 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, October 19 at 7 p.m.
Sunday, October 20 at 2 p.m.

[BUY TICKETS HERE](#) - \$5 student tickets

VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!

TIME TO VOTE!!!

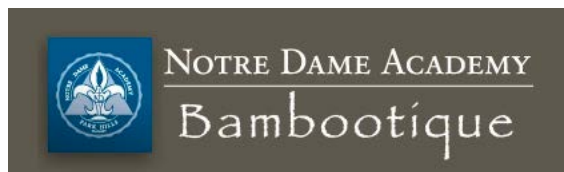
LET'S HONOR OUR ATHLETES

Please be sure to vote for our Athlete of the Week. You can vote [HERE!](#)

Please be sure to vote from your phones and vote once every hour.

Gretchen Germann – (Cross Country) The freshman took 10th place in the “white” race at Centerville in 23:14.1.

Lizzy Larkins – (Volleyball) The junior had 28 assists, five digs and an ace in a sweep of CHCA.



PANDA SPIRIT WEAR! **BAMBOOTIQUE**

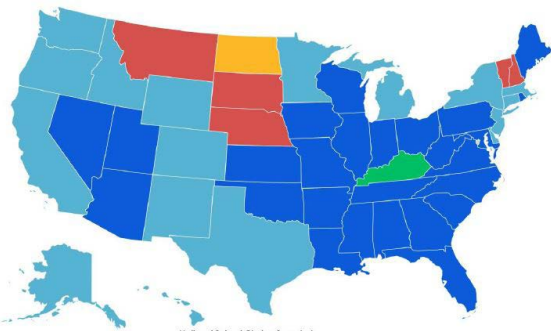
There are many new items in the Bambootique! Take a look and shop online [HERE](#).



IMPORTANT INFORMATION **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](#).

SCHOOL CHOICE NATIONAL SNAPSHOT



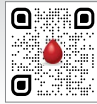
National School Choice Snapshot
 ■ STATES WITH PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS
 ■ STATES WITH PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS AND NO PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE LAWS
 ■ STATES WITH PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS AND NO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS
 ■ STATES WITH NO PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE OR NO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAWS
 ■ STATE WITH NO PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE LAW AND INACTIVE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LAW

SUPPORT SCHOOL CHOICE VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 2 THIS NOVEMBER

Amendment 2 will enable Governor Beshear and lawmakers to create innovative education policies in Ky. Visit <https://covidio.org/YesOnTwo>.

Schedule Donation

hoxworth.org | (513) 451-0910



EXCITING NEWS

HELP US REACH 50 DONORS!

If we can reach a total of **50 donors by October 27**, NDA will receive a \$500 grant! Every donation counts, whether it's at our school or any Hoxworth location. We are still eligible for this Hoxworth grant, so please spread the word and encourage others to donate. Let's work together to meet this goal and secure valuable funds for NDA.

Let's continue to make a positive impact and help save even more lives in our community!

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.

REALITY TUESDAY CAFE
 GOURMET COFFEESHOP

Panda Student Discount
 SHOW YOUR STUDENT ID FOR 50% OFF ANY DRINK MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS IN OCTOBER

Happy Hour 3p- Close

50% OFF BAKED GOOD ITEMS BUY ONE SPECIALITY DRINK, GET ONE HALF OFF \$2 OFF LUNCH SANDWICH OR SALAD

COMING IN OCTOBER

SPECIAL STUDENT DISCOUNT

Exciting news! Reality Tuesday will be offering Notre Dame Academy students a 50% discount on drinks every Monday and Friday throughout the month of October. It's the perfect way to kick off and wrap up your week, so don't miss out on this great opportunity to grab your favorite drinks at half the price!

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



PARENTS - PLEASE READ

SAFE ENVIRONMENT/EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAININGS

Each school year the students will have 2 lessons (seniors only have one) presented in Religion classes that are part of the Empowering God's Children® age-appropriate comprehensive program through which we give children and youth the tools they need to protect themselves and know what to do if someone tries to violate their boundaries. The counselors will present this to the students in one of their classes. If any parent has questions, or does not want to have their daughter receive either of the two lessons this year, please email: monohanc@ndapandas.org by October 14.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PANDAS

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Family support groups will be starting soon for students here at NDA. Family Support Group is an opportunity for students who are challenged by a family divorce, separation or non-traditional family situation to meet with other individuals from similar families with the goal to clarify confusing issues, enhance communication skills, decrease loneliness, improve understanding and develop coping strategies.

Each grade level has its own separate group that meets five times a semester, on a rotating basis, with meetings being completely optional for students. Mrs. Slone, slonem@ndapandas.org, will run the freshmen and sophomore groups, and Mrs. Maggard, maggarde@ndapandas.org will run the junior and senior groups. Please reach out if you would like to refer your daughter or if you have any questions.



SECOND CHANCE

MISSED LAST WEEK'S PANDA PARENT CLUB MEETING?

If you were unable to attend last week's Panda Parent Club meeting, don't worry! You can catch up on everything discussed by accessing a copy of the meeting [HERE](#). Stay connected and informed with all the latest updates from the Panda Parent Club!



GREAT OPPORTUNITY

JUNIOR COLLEGE/CAREER MEETINGS

Juniors are being offered the opportunity to meet with Ms Maggard if they are interested in talking more about what comes next for them after life at NDA. Meeting times are mainly being offered during the common study hall for all juniors on either Tuesday or Thursday. The meetings are optional as everyone is at a different place in the college/career process. Ask your junior daughter if she has had a meeting or if she would like to - all juniors were emailed the sign up calendar and it is also posted in the Class of 2026 Counseling Google Classroom.



DRUG FREE CLUB - JOIN TODAY!

“MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE EASY”

Being a member of Drug Free Club means getting rewarded for living a drug free life. We rewarded everyone last Wednesday with popsicles and encouraged all students to join. Joining is easy - check out the link found [here](#) where you can sign up online. Freshmen are encouraged to sign up for all four years because not only does that make it easier after the first year, it also gives you a discount of your senior year being FREE! For any questions about how Drug Free Club works at NDA please reach out to counselor Erin Maggard at maggarde@ndapandas.org.

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.

STAY INFORMED WITH THE PPC

JOIN THE NDA PANDA PARENT CLUB TO SUPPORT AND CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

The Notre Dame Academy Panda Parent Club (PPC) is an opportunity for parents, organized by the Student Services Department, to learn more about topics and information to support families in navigating pressures and concerns our students face daily. It is designed to help enhance communication between parents and the Student Services Department and to occasionally coordinate volunteering opportunities and community events to provide support for the school's educational goals. Meetings will be bi-monthly and information regarding presenters and topics can be found here.

Upcoming meetings:

November 21, 2024 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Alumnae Hall -

Debbie Zegarra from Ethan's Purpose will be presenting on suicide prevention and parents will be trained in QPR (think CPR but for mental health emergencies). See the flyer to the left.

*** PLEASE NOTE: These meetings are for parents only. Students will get this information via Drug Free Club and other education initiatives through DFC throughout the year.**

We want to hear more from you about topics you, as a parent, would be interested in learning more about. Please complete the brief survey [HERE](#) to help us better support you!



RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

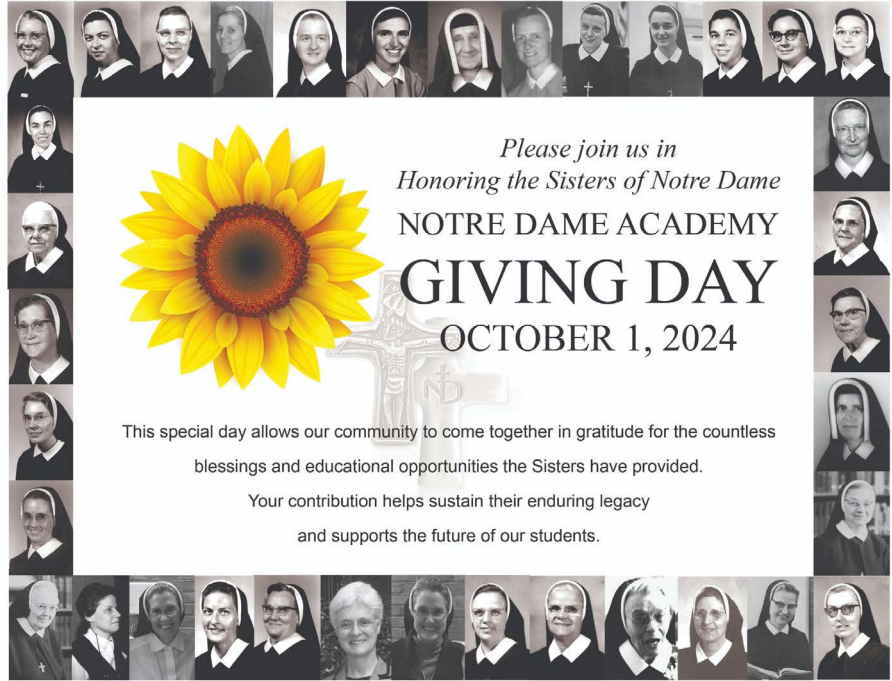
NDA PARENT TOOLBOX

NDA's counselors have put together some very useful tools for our parents [HERE](#).

ADVANCING THE MISSION

CELEBRATING GIVING DAY THANK YOU!

We are incredibly grateful to our NDA alumnae and community for their generosity and participation in this year's Giving Day! Giving Day contributions support Annual Fund and play a vital role in ensuring that our students continue to receive a transformative Catholic education rooted in faith, excellence, and service. Thanks to the support, we can carry forward the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame and help shape the next generation of leaders. Thank you for being an essential part of our NDA community!



Please join us in
Honoring the Sisters of Notre Dame
NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
GIVING DAY
OCTOBER 1, 2024

This special day allows our community to come together in gratitude for the countless blessings and educational opportunities the Sisters have provided.
Your contribution helps sustain their enduring legacy and supports the future of our students.

[CLICK HERE](#) to make a donation to NDA's Annual Fund in honor of the Sisters of Notre Dame



11.16.24 | 6:30-10:30 PM | The Grand Ballroom

You're Invited!

Cocktail Hour | Dinner | Open Bar | Auction & Raffles
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Did you miss your grade level Gift Gathering Party?

Shop our

amazon Wishlist

[HERE](#)

You're invited to the

Sophomore Parent Gift Gathering Party

Thursday 10.03.24 7 pm - 9 pm
The Views Clubhouse - 1250 Grays Peak Covington, KY 41011

All items donated benefit Notre Dame Academy's Fall Fundraiser Light the Night for NDA, Presented by Performance Lexus Northern Kentucky.

- Gift cards to local restaurants
- Rare bourbon
- Entertainment / Sports Tickets
- Contribute to larger gift card raffle with a cash / Venmo donation

Party Hosted By:
Charity Kirtley

RSVP here or 





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

- St. Tim's Mission Trip
- YES on 2
- Hero Night

Important dates

October 3	7:45 a.m. Rosary in Chapel Green Dot Bystander Training NDA Information Night for Potential students
October 4	7:45 a.m. Rosary in Chapel 1:30 p.m. Club Orientation
October 6	Golden Girls Mass and Luncheon
October 7	Non-Feeder Shadow Day
October 8	NHS Induction Ceremony
October 9	Super Day
October 11	NO SCHOOL - PD -Faculty/Staff Service project NDA/CCH Frosh Halloween Dance
October 14-16	Senior Retreat
October 17	Common Reader Day
October 18	Picture Re-Take Day
October 18-20	Romeo and Juliet
October 22	Parent/Teacher Conferences via Zoom NDA Information Night for Potential students
October 23	Alumnae Coffee Shop
October 25	Graduate Services - Senior Meeting
October 29	Senior College/Career Visit OR ACT
November 1	NO SCHOOL - All Saints' Day
November 5	NO SCHOOL - Election Day
November 8	Remembrance Mass
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