



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your families had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Here at Notre Dame Academy, we started the holiday with a meaningful Thanksgiving Prayer Service, reflecting on the many blessings in our lives and the joy of our NDA community.

Before the Thanksgiving break, we also celebrated the incredible work of our students in this year's Canned Food Drive. Since 2010, our students have collected over 150,000 canned food items for St. Vincent de Paul, making a tremendous impact on those in need. Their dedication to serving others is truly inspiring and a beautiful example of living our mission.

This week marks the beginning of Advent, a time of preparation and reflection as we await the birth of Christ. Our Campus Ministry program offers many opportunities for students to engage in this season of hope and faith. From Mass and morning rosary to other activities listed below, there are many ways for our students to deepen their spiritual connection and focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

Now that we're back, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at NDA! Thanks to our Student Council and Drug Free Club students, the school is filled with festive decorations that help us embrace the joy and anticipation of this season. Their efforts bring the Christmas spirit alive on campus and remind us of the importance of community and celebration.

Although the Diocese of Covington will observe the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9, as a holy day of obligation, NDA will be in session. We will mark this special day with a Mass for our students, celebrating our Catholic faith and honoring the our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

There are so many exciting things happening at NDA this season! Be sure to read below for updates and opportunities to join us in celebrating the joy and spirit of Advent.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in our mission to educate young women to make a difference in the world.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



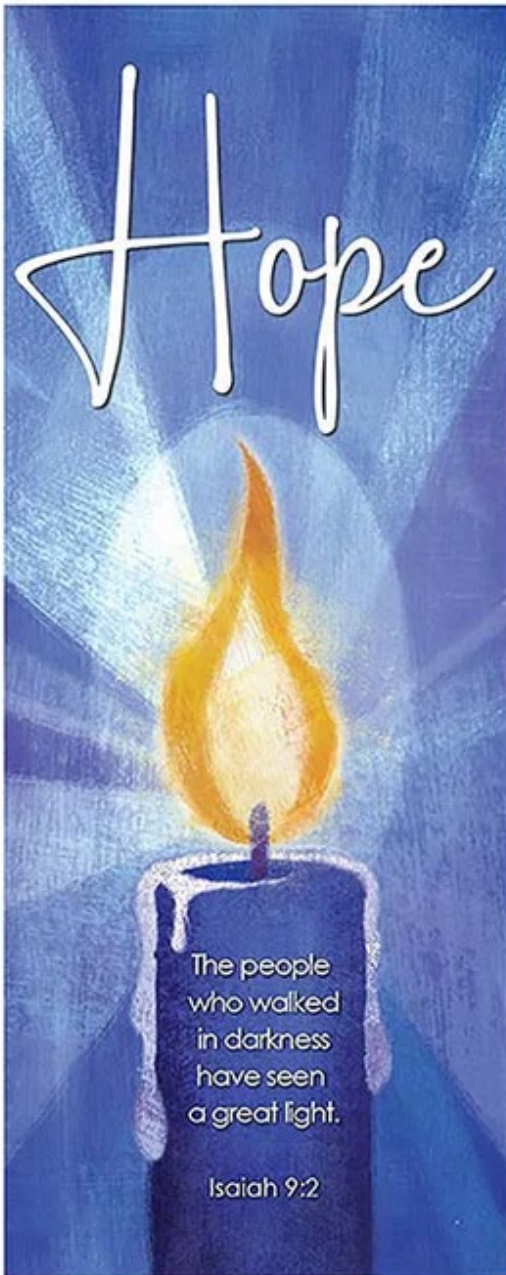
CAMPUS MINISTRY

ADVENT AT NDA

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR CHRIST

During this season of Advent, we invite our students to take time to reflect and prepare for the coming of Christ on Christmas Day through the many faith-filled opportunities available at Notre Dame Academy:

- **Morning Prayer:** Join us for the decade of the Rosary every Monday and Thursday at 7:45 a.m.
- **Daily Mass:** Celebrate the Eucharist with us at 7:20 a.m. on December 6, December 10, and December 13.
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** The Sacrament will be offered during Religion classes on December 4, December 10, and December 12.
- **Monday Morning Bible Study:** All are welcome to join us at 7:20 a.m. for prayer and reflection. New members are always welcome!
- **All-School Mass:** We will gather as a school community on Monday, December 9, to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
- **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:** On December 12, we will pray a full Rosary together during PPT to honor Our Lady.
- **Service Projects:** Advent is a perfect time to give back to our community. Explore the many service opportunities available on the [Upcoming Service Opportunities Page](#).



We hope these moments of prayer, reflection, and service help our students draw closer to Christ during this special season.

Student Life



CANNED FOOD DRIVE

CAN THE CRU AND BEAT THE BREDS

NDA was able to successfully “Can the Cru,” however we came up short in “Beating the Breds.” NCC collected 33 items per person while we averaged about 29 items per person. St. Henry averaged 13 items per person. So, while the real victory is the fact that we collected 13,899 items for St. Vincent dePaul, we weren’t the overall winner of the competition. We were able to crush our goal of collecting 10,000 items and also beat last year’s total of 13,469 cans. Our family competition was successful as well. The St. Rose of Lima Family (Pink Family) came in fourth place with 2,995 items. The St. Hildegard of Bingen Family (Purple Family) came in third place with 3,389 items. The St. Joan of Arc Family (Blue Family) earned the second place spot with 3,626 items. The winner of the 2024 Canned Food Drive is the St. Gemma Galgani Family (Green Family) with 3,889 items brought in.... Our Family Leaders will be tallying up the family competition totals this month to give us a breakdown as we reach the middle of the year.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



WAY TO GO



PANDAS



QUILT SHOW

TEXTILES TIME TO SHINE

Mark your calendars for this year's Quilt Show. Our students in Textiles are working hard to create masterpiece quilts showcasing their creativity, talent, and style. Be sure to come to Alumnae Hall during the week of 12/11 - 12/13 to check them out. The official Quilt Show for Textiles is planned for Wednesday 12/11 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (to coincide with the choral concert).

There is an Alumni Rosary scheduled for Thursday 12/12 at 12:47 p.m. (in the chapel) which would also be a great time to also admire the amazing quilts and talents of our Textiles students.



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.

- Hayley Pelstring – She led the Panda Bowlers to a narrow 4-3 win over Ryle.

Thank you for helping to honor our athletes!!

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.



Freshmen
Semi-Formal



DANCE ALERT

Silver Bells



DANCE ALERT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Freshmen Semi-Formal

The Freshmen Semi-Formal Dance (put on by our Drug Free Club) will be held on Saturday, December 7 from 8-11 p.m. at NDA. This dance is exclusively for freshmen and their guests. It is offered to both NDA and CCH students, however freshmen girls can bring someone from another school as their guest if they wish (the guest must also be a freshmen). Please see [this link](#) for purchasing tickets; it will be available until 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, December 5. Also included is the [slideshow](#) that was presented to students earlier this month which provides further details and dress code information.

Silver Bells

The annual Silver Bells Dance will be held on Saturday, December 14 from 8-11 p.m. at the Newport Car Barn. The theme for this dance is "Christmas in NYC." Please use [this link](#) to purchase tickets.

Please remember the following bits of info regarding this dance:

- Silver Bells is Saturday, December 14 from 8-11 p.m. at the Newport Car Barn. You are welcome to bring one guest per person - they must be UNDER THE AGE OF 21!
- Be sure to know your guests emergency contact information when registering!
- Code of conduct and dress code expectations do apply.
- You must arrive to the dance by 8:30 p.m. and are allowed to leave at 10:30 p.m.
- Breathalyzers will be administered at random upon entry.



START YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT NDA'S BAMBOOTIQUE

Last chance to place your order for a St. Nick delivery. Deadline for order is 12/05. Order a Santa or s'more kit and St. Nick will deliver it to your student, faculty or a staff member! Please add the name of the person in the note area of your order. Shop online [HERE](#).

Are you looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Check out our new lineup of Panda gear, hand-selected by a group of our students. Start your holiday shopping at NDA's Bambootique! From festive goodies to comfy sweatpants, we have it all! Come check out all we all have to offer, or shop online [HERE](#).

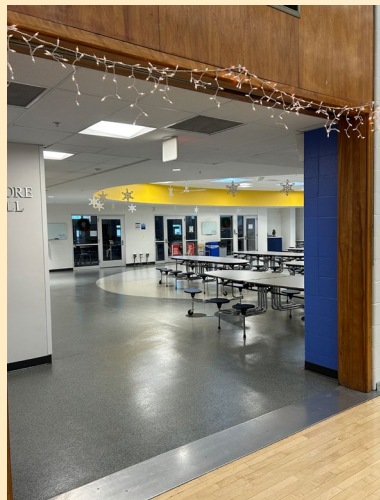
The Bambootique holiday hours are Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 1:00 p.m. The shop will be open on the following Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m: December 7, 14, and 21.



DECK THE HALLS!

STUDENT COUNCIL AND THE DRUG FREE CLUB SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

The students and moderators of both the Drug Free Club and the Student Council worked hard before Thanksgiving to transform the campus of NDA into a winter wonderland and showcase the beauty of Christmas. From the traditional star on the porch of the fourth floor to the stocking and snowflake adorned Longshore Dining Hall to the giant tree that beautifies the foyer, NDA is ready to welcome Jesus. The decorating of the school is always something that all students look forward to as well as our Christmas concert (this Friday) and Christmas fun to be had in homerooms later in the month. The four themes of Advent are represented well in the halls with posters and other Christmas decorations to remind us to open our hearts to faith, joy, hope and love. Thank you to the many student leaders and teachers who work diligently to make our school so festive and special.



RUN, HIDE, FIGHT

CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISE IN SAFETY!

On Friday December 13, our students will engage in a critical thinking exercise centered around the Run, Hide, Fight protocols. The students will be given hypothetical scenarios and situations that could occur and impact the safety of our school. With groups, the girls will have to determine how to respond to these situations to uphold the safety of themselves and others. The Run, Hide, Fight protocol is similar to the ALICE protocol that students are most likely are familiar with it from grade school. Sadly, it is crucial that our girls are prepared for various situations and this activity is a great exercise in doing so.





BRINGING ANCIENT ROME TO LIFE

2ND ANNUAL LATIN 3 ROMAN FOOD DAY

Recently, Latin 3 students brought ancient Rome to life during the 2nd Annual Roman Food Day! This exciting event allowed students to explore Roman culture and history through authentic recipes and culinary traditions.

The cafeteria was transformed into a Roman feast as students shared their Roman-inspired dishes, showcasing their knowledge and creativity. It was a delicious way to connect the past with the present and bring their studies to life!



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](#).

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.

FINE ARTS

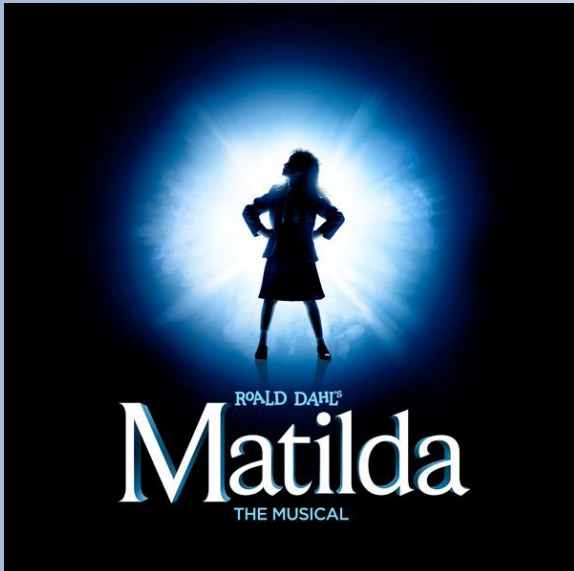


CELEBRATE THE SEASON **CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT NDA**

Celebrate the joy of the season at Notre Dame Academy's Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 8, from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Join us in the NDA auditorium for an evening filled with beautiful music performed by our talented students. This festive event is the perfect way to embrace the holiday spirit and enjoy the sounds of the season with family and friends.

We look forward to seeing you there!



IT'S SHOWTIME **AUDITIONS & CREW SIGN-UPS FOR MATILDA THE MUSICAL**

Exciting news! Auditions and crew sign-ups for Matilda the Musical are now open. Don't miss your chance to be part of this amazing production. Find all the details [HERE](#).

DECEMBER 14

**HSPT
@NDA**



**REGISTER
TODAY**

CALLING ALL FUTURE PANDAS

HSPT REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Notre Dame Academy's High School Placement Test (HSPT) is just around the corner!

Test Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024

Fee: \$20

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

The HSPT is required for all incoming freshmen interested in joining NDA's Panda community. Taking the test at NDA not only gets you started on your journey but also gives you priority consideration for academic scholarships!

Register now: [HSPT Registration Form](#)

If you have any questions, contact our Director of Enrollment, Katie Caccavari, at (859) 292-1829.

We're so excited to welcome you on December 14 as you take your first step toward becoming a Panda!

Bambinelli Blessing

AND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 5:30–7 P.M.
ST. MARY'S PARK, CATHEDRAL SQUARE

**BRING THE BABY JESUS FROM YOUR NATIVITY
FOR A BLESSING FROM BISHOP IFFERT.**

COME TOGETHER FOR AN EVENING OF
CELEBRATION, ADVENT AND HEART.

COOKIES, SANDWICHES
AND HOT CHOCOLATE PROVIDED.

LIVE MUSIC BY
THE ST. CECILIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ADULT CHOIR
AND THE ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

BAMBINELLI

JOIN BISHOP IFFERT FOR A SPECIAL ADVENT TRADITION WITH MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP, AND BLESSINGS!

Bishop John Iffert invites you and your family and friends to attend the third annual Bambinelli and Christmas Tree Blessing on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Park (Diocesan Curia). Come see the blessing and lighting of the diocesan Christmas tree, listen to live parish and school choirs, enjoy homemade cookies, and hot cocoa, and hear a Nativity story. Bring the Baby Jesus figure from your home Nativity to receive a special blessing from Bishop Iffert and be part of a Catholic Advent tradition! No RSVP required. All are welcome!

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Basketball kicked off their with all three teams defeating St. Ursula. They are playing Newport Central tonight. They will then turn around and play Scott at Newport on Friday at 8:00pm.

Bowling beat Ryle with Grace Panko having her highest game of 116 and Cami Norris rolling a 198. Sophomore Haley Pelstring helped to secure the win with games of 189 and 172. Next up is the Beechwood match Thursday and the NKAC Championship this Saturday.

Archery kicks off its season this weekend at Notre Dame as they host the NDA Invitational Friday Dec. 6th and Saturday Dec. 7th. Best of luck to them.

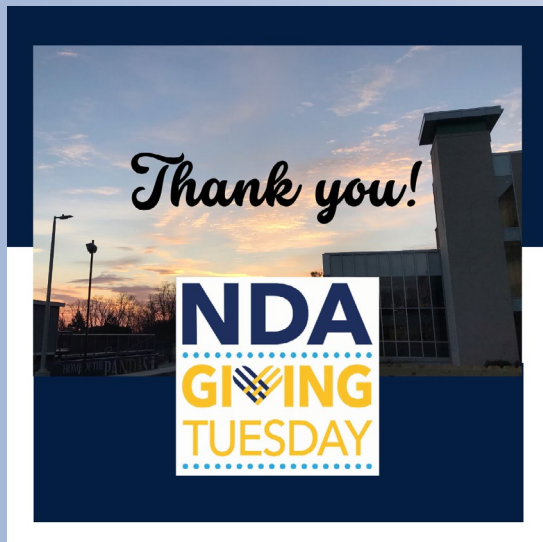
Swimming and Diving traveled to Chattanooga Tn for the McCallie invitational. The pandas placed 4th out of 23 girls teams! The swim team is back in action on Saturday as they compete in the St. Henry Invitational on Saturday at Keating Natatorium at St. Xavier High School.



The Aqua PaNDAs traveled to Chattanooga this weekend to compete in the 31st McCallie Invitational, placing 4th overall!

CONGRATS!

ADVANCING THE MISSION



THANK YOU!

GIVING DAY GRATITUDE

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported Notre Dame Academy on Giving Tuesday! Because of your generosity, NDA continues to be a place where faith thrives, leaders are formed and young women discover their purpose.

Your contributions to the Annual Fund are making a difference in countless ways—strengthening our faith-based programs, supporting our dedicated teachers and providing tuition assistance for families in need.

Together, we're ensuring that NDA remains a community where students grow in faith, knowledge and leadership. Thank you for helping us empower the next generation of women to make a difference in the world!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SUPPORT NDA'S ANNUAL FUND TODAY!

As the year comes to a close, we invite you to make a lasting impact by supporting Notre Dame Academy's Annual Fund. Your gift sustains the vibrant faith life at NDA, helps attract and retain extraordinary teachers and ensures access to an NDA education through vital tuition assistance.

Every day, our students feel the transformative power of your generosity—whether through retreats that deepen their faith, supportive teachers who inspire them, or the sisterhood that shapes their purpose.

Join us in saying yes to their future by making a gift to NDA's 2024-25 Annual Fund. Together, we can continue to empower the next generation of compassionate and purposeful leaders!

[DONATE TODAY](#)



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

- St. Tim's Mission Trip
- Hero Night

Important dates

December 6	Mass in the Chapel at 7:20 a.m. - All are welcome! In School Band and Choral Christmas Concert - Gym
December 7	Freshman Semi-Formal Dance - Auditorium/Cafeteria
December 8	Christmas Band Concert - Theatre/Alumnae Hall
December 9	Advent Mass / Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass
December 11	Quilt Show (December 11-12) Winter Choir/Dance Concert at 6:30 p.m.
December 13	Cookies with Santa Alumnae Event
December 14	HSPT - High School Placement Test Silver Bells Dance
December 17	Alumnae Welcome Back Night - Alumnae Hall
December 18-20	Exams
December 23	NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break begins
January 6	School Resumes New Year's Mass
January 20	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 17	NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
March 14	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day