



## Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you and your families well during this joyful Advent season.

This week at Notre Dame Academy, we gathered as a community to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a day of special significance for our Church and for our school, as Mary is the Patroness of NDA. Our Advent Mass was a meaningful reflection on Mary's role in God's plan and her "yes" to His call, which continues to inspire us.

During this season of Advent, we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Like Mary, we are called to open ourselves to God's abundant blessings. As you will see in the Campus Ministry section of today's Panda Press Weekly, there are many upcoming opportunities for our students to prepare the way for Christ in their lives, through prayer, reflection and spiritual engagement.

This past Sunday, the NDA Band performed a wonderful Christmas concert that truly brought the holiday spirit to life. Thank you to Band Director and NDA faculty member Mr. Greg Cerimele and our talented band members for their hard work and dedication. Their performance was a beautiful reminder of the joy and community that the Christmas season brings.

If you know a young woman interested in joining our Panda community as a freshman next year, please encourage them to register today for our High School Placement Test (HSPT) which is this Saturday, December 14. You can find further details below.

Finally, as we approach midterm exams next week, we encourage our students to prioritize healthy habits like getting sufficient sleep and eating well. These practices will ensure they are at their best for this important academic time.

Thank you for your continued support of Notre Dame Academy. May the joy and peace of Advent fill your hearts as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



# CAMPUS MINISTRY

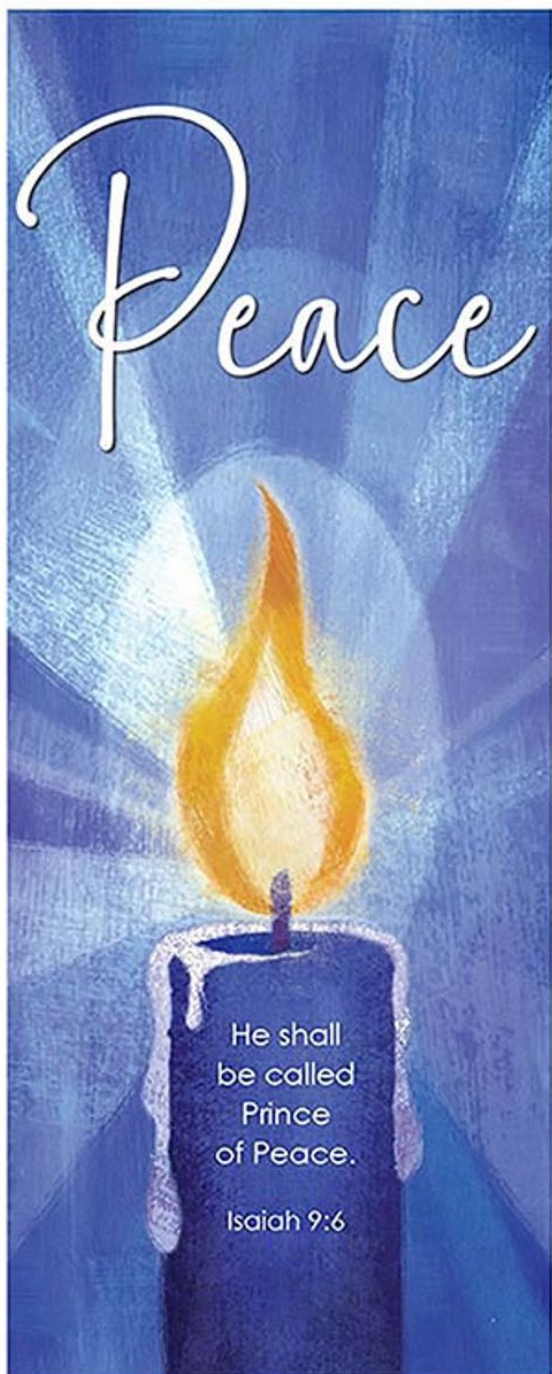
## ADVENT AT NDA

### 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 10 and December 13.
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** The Sacrament will be offered during Religion classes on 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 gathered 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



## 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.

- NDA Basketball Team – The Pandas are 3-0 after dominant wins over Ursuline, NewCath and Scott to start the season.
- Maya Lawrie – She averaged 14.7 points per game as the Pandas got off to a 3-0 start with wins over St. Ursula, Newport Central Catholic and Scott.
- Haley Pelstring – She had games of 246 and 148 in a win over Beechwood.
- Savannah Bien – She won the diving competition at Scott with 256.4 points, improving on her entry score by 36.4 points.

Thank you for helping to honor our athletes!

## 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](mailto:attendance@ndapandas.org). Remember you can always call the school office with any questions 859-261-4300.

**PLEASE NOTE!**

# DANCE

# ALERT

*Silver Bells*



## DANCE ALERT

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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

Don't forget to buy your Christmas presents! Check out our new NDA fleece and start your holiday shopping at the Bambootique. We have it all from mugs to hoodies! You can check out our selection [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 14 and 21.

## 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 familiar with 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.



**SAFETY  
FIRST**

## 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](mailto: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.



## NDA/CCH BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

# A SPECTACULAR EVENING OF MUSIC AND HOLIDAY SPIRIT

What an incredible evening at the NDA/CCH Band Christmas Concert! The talent and holiday spirit brought by these amazing musicians was truly awe-inspiring. Huge thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this performance unforgettable. Here's a little clip to spread the cheer!

**AFTER PROM SURVEY!**

## ATTENTION JUNIOR AND SENIOR PARENTS

# AFTER PROM INFORMATION

We are working on planning an After Prom Event for the upcoming 2025 Prom. This event will only be possible if we have enough participants (75 attendees). Our potential After Prom will be held at Silverlake: The Family Place and will include three activities (one being the basketball gym) along with food and drinks. We cannot book this event without enough potential participation. The cost per person would be \$35.

Please consider completing [this survey](#) so we can determine whether or not this would be an option for our students.

Parents: If you are interested in helping plan and supervise After Prom this year, please reach out to Lisa Timmerding at [timmerdingl@ndapandas.org](mailto:timmerdingl@ndapandas.org). The After Prom has traditionally been held from 11:30 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. In order for this event to be a success, we will need many parent volunteers. Please reach out to Mrs. Timmerding if you are interested. Thank you in advance for your help!



## FRESHMAN NIGHT OUT A MEMORABLE EVENING AT THE SEMI-FORMAL DANCE

On Saturday the Drug Free Club under the supervision of the Student Services Team held the annual Freshmen Semi Formal: A Winter Wonderland. The freshmen students from both CCH and NDA enjoyed an evening of fun, dancing, snacks, and positive energy. Students from the Drug Free Club worked as DJs, provided snacks, and helped to get the students dancing. The evening even included some gift cards raffled off for the winners of limbo and other fun competitions. It was a great event for our amazing students!



## ALUMNA SHARES EXPERTISE SPANISH CLUB LEARNS TO SALSA

This past week our Spanish Club welcomed NDA alum Katelyn Cauthen Class of 2011 to teach us the salsa. Katelyn is an entrepreneur and dance instructor at Salsannati, among other studios. Our students had a great time learning the basic steps to the salsa, a dance native to the Spanish speaking Caribbean region.





## LEARNING TO LEAD

# NDA STUDENT ATTENDS PRESTIGIOUS 4-H LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Notre Dame Academy student Corryn Kohls recently had the honor of attending a three-day 4-H Leadership Conference held at Dale Hollow State Park. Nominated by the Kenton County 4-H Extension agents, Corryn and another young leader from Kenton County joined peers from across the region for this exciting opportunity.

The conference focused on developing leadership skills, fostering teamwork, and inspiring participants to make a positive impact in their communities. Through engaging workshops, interactive activities, and opportunities for collaboration, Corryn gained valuable insights and skills that she will carry forward into her academic and personal endeavors.

We are proud to see our students stepping into leadership roles and representing NDA in such meaningful ways. Congratulations, Corryn, on this wonderful achievement!

## 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](#).

**As we approach Christmas Break, we kindly ask parents to check their lunch accounts to ensure they are up to date. Thank you for helping us keep things running smoothly!**



## 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



**Archery** - hosted their annual archery tournament at Notre Dame to kick off the season. They placed 4th in their invite and had 6 in the top 15 with 7 archers shooting their personal best. The Pandas have already qualified for the post season with a team score of 3166. Congratulations to our Archery Pandas. Next up the team will take part in the Twenhofel tournament on Friday and Saturday.

**Basketball** - is off to a great start with a 3-0 start. They took down the Scott Eagles 74 - 51. Four pandas were in double figures, Emma Holzapfel and Maya Lawrie had 16 points, Sophia Gibson added 13 and Amelia Stallard chipped in with 12. Next up on Tuesday, all three teams are playing Seton at Notre Dame, 4:30/6:00/7:30 p.m. and then Friday NDA takes on Dixie at Bellevue at 7:45 p.m.



**Swimming and Diving** - On Saturday, the AquaPandas competed in the St. Henry Winter Classic at Keating Natatorium (St. Xavier HS) and earned an impressive 2nd place finish out of 7 teams. Top individual performances included:

- Andi Carothers (Senior): 1st in the 200 Free, 3rd in the 100 Free
- Peyton Quinn (Junior): 2nd in the 100 Free
- Liv Wallace (Junior): 1st in both the 50 Free and 100 Breast

Relay victories:

- 200 Medley Relay: Wallace, Quinn, Elsie Hanks (Sophomore), and Carothers
- 400 Free Relay: Carothers, Quinn, Hanks, and Wallace



All 12 girls competing in the event contributed to the scoring, with each securing at least one top-16 finish.

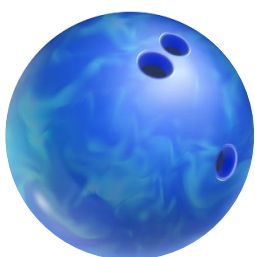
Savannah Bien scored a 256.4 score to win the diving meet.

Next for Swim and Dive is the Scott Invitational this Saturday at Scott High School.

Congratulations, AquaPandas, on a fantastic team effort!

**Bowling** finished in 2nd place at our recent NKAC Bowling Championship. The team was 4 pins away from a win! Congratulations! Next up is a match on Tuesday against Holy Cross and then Saturday the Boone County Singles tournament at Bellwood.

**Middle School Track program** is holding sign ups - you can sign up here: <https://forms.gle/JZsjs2iSh5MR7Pt48>





# COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES



## INFORMATION SESSIONS

### EXPLORE DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2025-26

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

For more information about our next Information Session event:

#### Information Session 2 (In Person at Thomas More)

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

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

#### Information Session 3 (Virtual)

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

#### Diocese of Covington Dual Credit Information Session (In person)

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

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

Please email [dualcredit@thomasmore.edu](mailto:dualcredit@thomasmore.edu) if you have any questions.

**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.



**THOMAS MORE  
UNIVERSITY**

REGISTER TODAY

## **WINTER PREVIEW DAY AT THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY**

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

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

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

**[RSVP today: Winter Preview Day](#)**



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND**

**Study hard for  
Midterms**

# ADVANCING THE MISSION



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](#)

CALLING ALL FUTURE PANDAS

## HSPT REGISTRATION IS OPEN

NDA's High School Placement Test (HSPT) is just around the corner!

**Test Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024**  
**Fee: \$20**

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!

DECEMBER 14

HSPT  
@NDA 

REGISTER  
TODAY



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

- St. Tim's Mission Trip
- Hero Night

## Important dates

December 11	Quilt Show (December 11-12)  Winter Choir/Dance Concert at 6:30 p.m.
December 12	Alumnae Rosary in Chapel During PPT 12:47
December 13	Mass in Chapel 7:20 a.m.  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