



THE *nda* LIFE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well as we continue our Advent journey and prepare to celebrate the joyous season of Christmas. Our students have been working hard this week preparing for their exams. Their dedication is truly impressive, and we're incredibly proud of all their hard work.

To balance the intensity of exams, we've made it a priority to maintain a sense of joy and tradition this week at NDA. On Monday, our Family Leadership students planned special Christmas activities for their homerooms. From hot cocoa bars and white elephant gift exchanges to gingerbread house contests and caroling, these moments of lighthearted fun reminded us all of the beauty and joy of this season.

As we conclude the semester and prepare for a well-earned Christmas break, I encourage our students to take time to rest, recharge and reflect on the blessings of the year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, January 6, when we will come together for an all-school Mass to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Junior Service Program. This milestone reflects the heart of Notre Dame Academy's mission: to empower our students to live lives of service and faith.

May the hope, peace, and joy of the third week of Advent fill your hearts as we prepare for the coming of Christ. On behalf of everyone at NDA, I wish you and your families a blessed and Merry Christmas.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



CAMPUS MINISTRY

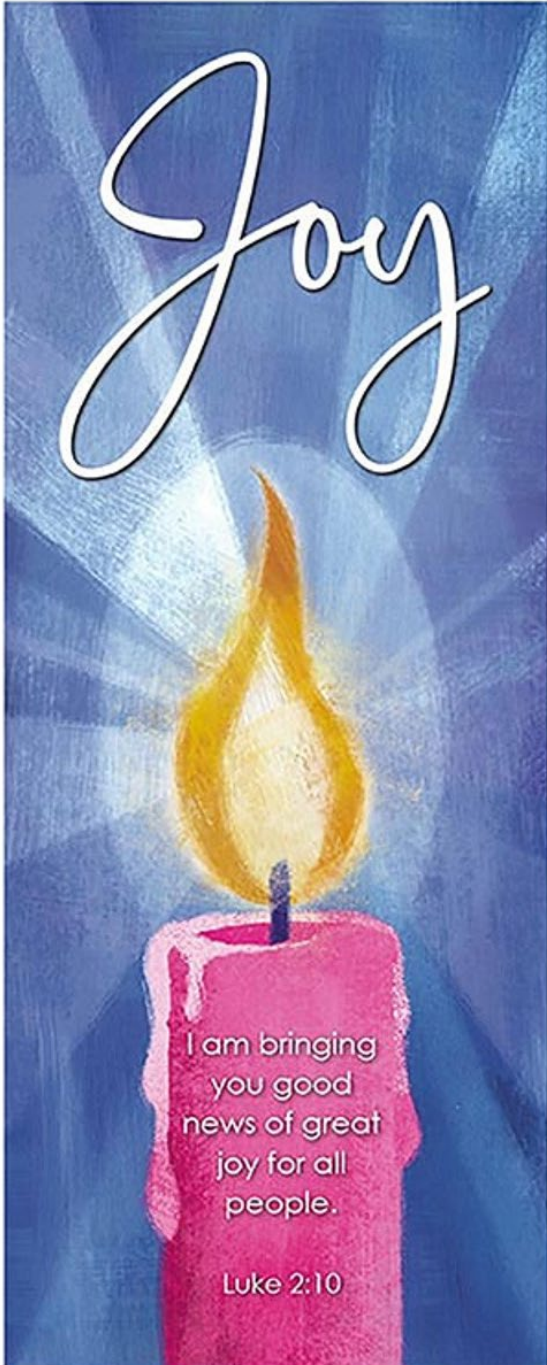
ADVENT AT NDA

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR CHRIST

We hope all of the moments of prayer, reflection and service provided by our Campus Ministry Office have helped our students draw closer to Christ during this special season of Advent.

As we enter the busy days of exams, studying and Christmas preparations, we invite our students, faculty and staff to take a moment to pause and reflect in our chapel. We are honored to have received the Nativity scene that was once displayed at St. Joseph Heights during the Christmas season. This beautiful gift is a meaningful way to honor the legacy of the Sisters of Notre Dame and deepen our worship and prayer experience.

The Nativity scene will be on display in the chapel until January 10. We hope these moments of prayer, reflection, and service help our students draw closer to Christ during this special season. May the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace of Christ fill your hearts this Christmas.



Student Life

**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@nda-pandas.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!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION INCLEMENT WEATHER

As winter approaches, it comes with the possibility of school closings and delays due to natural elements, hazardous road conditions or power outages. The decision to close or delay school is made with the safety of students, parents and faculty/staff in mind. If there is a need to delay or close school, NDA will use the emergency notification system PowerSchool Messenger to communicate to all school community members through email, text and phone. This decision will also be publicized on all of our social media accounts along with the website.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT NDA's BAMBOOTIQUE

You can get 20% off your entire order until Friday at the Bambootique! Shop is open from 7:00 to 1:00 Monday-Friday. Special Saturday hours for this weekend are 9:00 to 12:00. Shop online [HERE](#).

CONGRATULATIONS CAROLINE BOHMAN

NDA FRESHMAN EARNS PRESTIGIOUS HONOR

Earlier this fall Caroline Bohman applied for a 6-month fellowship opportunity with Youth at the Center in Cincinnati. This fellowship opportunity is for young people between the ages of 14-24 with the focus of advancing key components of the HEY! 10-year strategic plan HEY! (Hopeful Empowered Youth) is a coalition of community groups, healthcare providers, educators, policy makers, families and most importantly, young people, working collaboratively to create a community that supports the well-being of all youth from ages 0-24 in Greater Cincinnati. HEY!, in partnership with local philanthropic agencies (including United Way, The Joe Burrow Foundation, Interact for Health and the RC Durr Foundation, etc), has developed a 10-year vision in which the Youth of Greater Cincinnati are valued and supported by the community and have a say in the systems to help them achieve and maintain well-being.

There were over 200 applicants from the Greater Cincinnati area vying for this fellowship opportunity with 80 of the applicants granted an interview. Caroline was offered one of the 20 available positions. She is the youngest fellow in the cohort and is one of only two students chosen to represent high schools in the Diocese of Covington with the other student joining from Newport Central Catholic.

Amazing job Caroline, thank you for representing NDA so well and we are excited for this opportunity for you!



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.

- Notre Dame Basketball – The Pandas are 5-0 after wins over Seton and Dixie Heights last week.
- Emma Holtzapfel – The junior had 17 points and three rebounds in a win over Seton, then had 25 points, including the game-winning three-pointer, in a win over Dixie Heights.
- Andi Carothers – She improved her time in the 100-yard butterfly by 2.81 seconds, taking fifth place in 1:09.16 at the Nicole Tucker Invitational.

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. Remember you can always call the school office with any questions 859-261-4300.

PLEASE NOTE!

VOTE!
VOTE!
VOTE!



FINDING PEACE IN GOD'S WORLD FRESHMEN EXPERIENCE LECTIO DIVINA WITH SR. RUTH TO PREPARE FOR ADVENT

Sr. Ruth led Mrs. Van Auken's freshmen religion classes in a peaceful session of Lectio Divina on Friday of last week, offering the students a moment of stillness amid the stress of upcoming exams. As they meditated on God's word, she guided them through the prayerful reading of Scripture, to quiet their minds and open their hearts. Sr. Ruth helped the students focus on God's comforting presence, inviting them to reflect on His peace and respond to His guidance. The practice not only helped ease their nerves but also prepared them spiritually for the season of Advent, while they await the coming of Christ with renewed hope and faith.



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.



ATTENTION SKI CLUB

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Attention Ski Club Parents! If your daughter needs a ride from NDA to PNS (and back to NDA), [here](#) is the form to purchase a bus pass. We will depart from school at 3:15 pm and return to school by 8:30 pm. Email Ms. Dooling at doolingm@ndapandas.org with any questions.



DELICIOUS NEWS!

WEEKLY LUNCH MENU

Please check your daughter's lunch account to ensure they are up to date. Thank you for helping us keep things running smoothly!

Silver Bells

CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK SILVER BELLS 2024

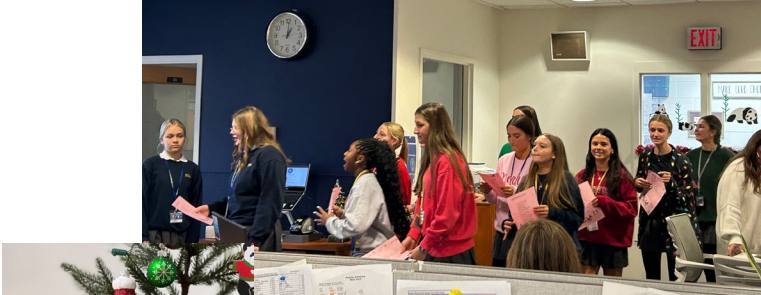
On Saturday, students from the sophomore to senior classes were offered the opportunity to attend the annual Silver Bells event. This year the theme was Christmas in New York. The sophomore Student Council leaders and representatives worked hard to plan an amazing event with a New York theme skyline, centerpieces, cookies and lots of dancing. The Newport Car Barn was an amazing venue for our students. There was a large dance floor, an area with couches for those not interested in dancing and games for the students to play. This is always a well attended event and this year it was even more so. Students danced and enjoyed the fellowship while looking dazzling in their semi formal attire. It was a very successful and enjoyable event for all!



CHRISTMAS FUN

BALANCING EXAMS WITH HOLIDAY CHEER

This week the students will be focused on hard work and dedication as they prepare and study for exams. It was important for us to remain focused and in our routine as we spent two days of this week preparing them for their midterms and final exams, while sprinkling in a little fun. On Monday, our Family Leadership students planned for Christmas activities in their homerooms. Each homeroom brainstormed ways they would like to spend the homeroom time and the teacher and leaders worked to make it happen. Some homerooms enjoyed a hot cocoa bar, some participated in a white elephant gift exchange, while others had gingerbread house contests or sang carols throughout the school. The goal was to provide some relief from studying and review and remind them of the goodness of the season. Hopefully all enjoyed some light hearted fun!



FINE ARTS

CREATIVE MINDS AT WORK ART STUDENTS CHANNEL THEIR ENERGY INTO INSPIRING MIDTERM PROJECTS

Art students using their PPT time to work on Midterms. I love seeing all the creative energy flowing in the Art room!!! Art 1 is creating a portrait, monochromatically, in acrylic incorporating words. Art 2 made a chalk pastel based on the works of Georgia O'Keefe. Art 3 is working on a 3D project, where the sky is the limit. They got to take their creativity to the next level with large sculptures. Does this art teacher's heart go good. Very proud of our students.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



FROM THE DESK OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Swimming -

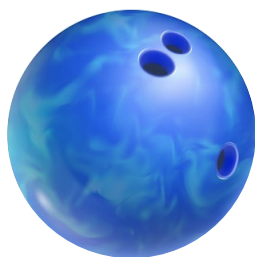
This past Saturday, the AquaPandas competed in the Nicole Tucker Invite at the Kenton County Aquatic Center (Scott High School). With many upperclassmen preparing for Silver Bells, the spotlight was shining on the freshmen, who rose to the occasion. The team secured an impressive 3rd place finish out of 13 teams.

Notable top-three performances included:

- Freshman McKenna Bien: 3rd in the 100 backstroke.
- Sophomore Abby Carnes: 2nd in both the 50 and 100 freestyle.
- Sophomore Makayla Kleman: 3rd in the 200 IM.
- The 200 freestyle relay team of Kleman, freshman Marcy Franxman, junior Danaka Tucker, and Bien: 3rd place.

The AquaPandas achieved 16 personal best times in 24 swims and 6 new relay best times. Congratulations to the AquaPandas on their outstanding effort and results! Next up for swimming is the "Girls Night Out" meet at the University of Louisville on Friday night.

Bowling



Panda Bowling at Bellwood Lanes in the Boone Country singles tournament. Sophomore Haley Pelstring bowls to her third all tournament team. She finished in the elite eight out of 47 bowlers. Senior Greta Bitkofer bowls a 132 in the 2nd round, her personal best. Next up the bowling team takes on Boone on Thursday Dec. 19th.

Basketball



The Varsity team improved to a 5- 0 record with a great win over Dixie last Friday night at the Stephanie Wilson Classic at Bellevue High School. With less than 2 seconds left, Emma Holtzapfel hit a 3 pointer to go up by 2 points and to get the win! Emma Holtzapfel hsf 25 points and melai Stallard added 14 points with 9 other pandas adding to the 58 -57 win! The team will travel to Louisville to partake in the Queen of the Bluegrass in Louisville.

Archery



The archery team competed at the Twenhofel tournament this past weekend. They turned in another solid performance with a team score of 3129. Four archers shot their personal best and we placed 4 in the top 20 of high school girls! The team will be competing at Dixie Heights High School this weekend and then at Covington Catholic the following weekend. Keep up the great work Archery Pandas!

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 if you have any questions.

REGISTER TODAY

WINTER PREVIEW DAY AT THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY



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](#)

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.



PEACE



LOVE



CHRISTMAS

ADVANCING THE MISSION



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SUPPORT NDA'S ANNUAL FUND TODAY!

Supporting the Notre Dame Academy Annual Fund is the single greatest way to empower future generations of competent, compassionate, and purposeful leaders. Your gift directly supports our Catholic mission in the most impactful ways, meeting the needs of today's students while building a foundation for tomorrow.

The Power of an Unrestricted Gift

We all want to make a difference in the world. Notre Dame Academy exists to inspire young women to do just that. Our students choose NDA because they know a Notre Dame Academy education will prepare them to lead with faith, integrity, and purpose.

Our most dedicated supporters believe that shaping the future begins with transforming the hearts and minds of today's students. A gift to the Annual Fund is the most direct way to support this mission, providing critical resources for:

- **Faith Formation:** Campus ministry programs and transformative retreats that deepen spiritual growth.
- **Exceptional Educators:** Attracting and retaining teachers who inspire academic excellence and a pursuit of learning.
- **Tuition Assistance:** Ensuring access to an NDA education for every young woman in our community who wants to pursue it.

Unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund allow school leaders to respond to our most pressing needs while sustaining programs that empower students to serve their communities and make a lasting impact on the world.

By renewing your support today, you'll help ensure that Notre Dame Academy remains a beacon of faith, education, and opportunity for generations to come.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

Thank you for your belief in our mission and for being a part of our story. Together, we can continue to shape purposeful leaders who will make a difference in the world!



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

- St. Tim's Mission Trip
- Hero Night

Important dates

December 18-20	Exams
December 20	End of Second Quarter
December 23	NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break begins
January 6	School Resumes
	New Year's Mass
January 13	HSPT Results Night
January 13-15	Senior Retreat #3
January 20	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 24-26	Showcase
January 27-31	Catholic Schools Week
February 17	NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
March 14	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day