

WOMEN *of* VISION



Jeopardy!

Madeline Kaplan '13
scores big.

Madeline



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Mission Statement

Notre Dame Academy, a Catholic college preparatory school for young women, educates in the tradition, vision, and principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame. We empower students to be intellectually curious, passionately faith-filled, and socially responsible servant leaders.

Vision Statement

In the spirit of the Gospel, we foster globally minded women of vision who are Bold, Brilliant, Beautiful, and Blessed.

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Artwork

Apples
Sophia Walker '26

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Cover

*Photo courtesy of
Jeopardy! Productions, Inc.*





Engine of Achievement

DEAR ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS OF NDA,



On May 21, the Class of 2026 processed down the long aisle at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, tossed their graduation caps in the air, and became the newest NDA alumnae, taking their BOLD, BRILLIANT, BEAUTIFUL and BLESSED experiences from our hallways out into the world.

At Notre Dame Academy, our mission is to graduate students who are not just well-informed, but deeply curious. While grades and test scores can provide a snapshot of someone's accomplishments, **intellectual curiosity** is the lifelong spark that ensures these young women keep growing long after they leave our classrooms.

This curiosity is fostered in many ways at NDA, one of which is the popular senior "career exploration" project. Upperclasswomen spend several days shadowing professionals in their anticipated field, providing a real-world preview of what their future could look like.

Curiosity can be called an *engine of achievement*, but it's also much more than that. It can be an act of courage, the willingness to admit you don't know something yet, with the desire to find the answers.

As our recent graduates continue their journeys of lifelong learning, I would challenge them, and all of you, to remain curious. Don't settle for the first answer you find after a quick internet search. Dig deeper, and ask questions. Embrace a spirit that questions the status quo, and a mindset that strives to improve it.

By fostering a culture where questions are as celebrated as answers, and intellectual curiosity is cultivated in and out of the classroom, we empower NDA's young women of vision to navigate an ever-changing world with confidence. Our goal is that they, and all NDA alumnae, will continue to be curious in everything they do.

Enjoy a blessed summer!

In Notre Dame,


Kim Grilliot
PRESIDENT

Career Exploration Project

A valuable lesson

When NDA Career Counselor **Jackie (Zigray) Flom '85** was a senior at Notre Dame Academy, the Senior Project wasn't a requirement.

"But it certainly would have helped me out — and I probably wouldn't have changed my major three times, had I done some career exploration while still in high school," she shares.

Jackie attended the University of Toledo, and started with a major in chemical engineering before switching to accounting — and then changing again to major in marketing.

NDA implemented the Senior Project in the late 1980s, when **Sr. Mary Carol Gregory SND '58** was Principal. "We wanted to provide a benefit by helping the girls determine what they wanted to pursue as careers, and we also wanted to utilize the time during the month of May, when the seniors were ready to fly," explains Sr. Carol.

"They would shadow a professional for a week, and then come back to NDA and present their experience to one another. Many had ideas of what they wanted to do, but some of them changed their minds after the experience. The students who were really into it got a lot out of it, and they learned valuable lessons about responsibility and professionalism."

Today at NDA, the Senior Project has been renamed the "Career Exploration Project," and students may begin working on their job shadowing hours during the summer before their junior year. They now must complete their hours before the fall semester — at the beginning of senior year — which gives students more time to make informed decisions about which college to attend and major to pursue.

"With this timeline, failures or challenges can become learning opportunities for the future," shares Jackie.



Kara Cannon '18
Pediatric RN

Senior Project:
Shadowed a pediatric nurse

"I originally wanted to be a pediatrician, and went premed after graduating from NDA. I earned my bachelor's in biology and master's in nursing — and today I'm a pediatric nurse at ProMedica's Toledo Ebeid Children's Hospital.

NDA's Senior Project gives a first look at a real workplace experience, and can help students see if they actually like a career — or if they just like the idea of it."



Kylie (Foetisch) Smith '19
Early Childhood Education

Senior Project:
Shadowed at a preschool and middle school

"My experience confirmed that I loved education, but steered me more toward early childhood rather than young adult education. I appreciated getting hands-on experience in my desired career!"



Beth (Grime) Mooney '89
Business Owner

Senior Project:
Shadowed then-Toledo City Councilwoman Eleanor Kahle

"The Senior Project is a critical connection to the community — and teaches accountability and networking skills. My career plans were confirmed after my experience."

Today, I own my company — Jump Commerce Group, LLC — which helps European companies establish businesses in the U.S. I specialize in marketing and digital commerce, working primarily with industrial manufacturers."



Katelyn (Cook) Burton '02
Nurse

Senior Project:
Shadowed a nurse manager of a NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit)

"I've been a nurse for 20 years! My background is primarily in NICUs, but I'm currently working as a school nurse in Fairfax, VA. The real-life experience of the Senior Project is unmatched."



Jayna Lonsway '20
Chemical Engineer

Senior Project:
Shadowed at the Dart Container Plant in Mason, MI, and the Owens-Illinois Glass Plant in Toledo

"During my Senior Project, I was introduced to engineering roles that bring innovation to life, from design and manufacturing to customer application. Seeing the R&D work at companies like O-I sparked my interest in research and ultimately led me to my current role at Dow. Ironically, some of the polyethylene resins I develop today are sold to companies like Dart, where I first discovered chemical engineering, a true full-circle experience."

The Senior Project provides students with valuable early exposure that many don't receive until college, helping them explore and confirm their interests before pursuing a degree."



Heather (Myers) Loomis '96
4th and 5th Grade Teacher

Senior Project:
Shadowed at Sunshine Children's Home

"I originally planned to pursue child psychology and help children affected by addiction, but my experience at Sunshine helped me realize my career path was elsewhere. It showed me the importance of experiencing a field before committing to it and potentially investing in classes I would not use."

Senior Project also helps students build valuable connections and represent NDA in the community through career exploration and service. I love that it gives the community a chance to see how remarkable these young women are."

Career Exploration Project

Isabella Przynosch '25
Expected Career in
Medicine

Senior Project:
Shadowed health care
professionals including
doctors, nurses, and
occupational/physical
therapists

“My Senior Project solidified my plans by allowing me to see what a typical day in various healthcare fields looks like. I shadowed for many hours and got to watch doctors perform surgery, PT and OT perform exams on patients, and also helped with community service.”

Lauren Deutschman '20
Speech Therapist

Senior Project:
Shadowed at Rehabilitation
Hospital of Northwest Ohio

“During my experience, I saw the team of physical, occupational and speech therapists work together to comprehensively and collaboratively treat patients. This opportunity allowed me to find a career I’m truly passionate about — speech therapy — that I didn’t even know was an option beforehand!”

Caitlyn (Miller) Olmedo '15
Paraeducator

Senior Project:
Shadowed a veterinary
practice and in engineering

“As a senior, I shadowed my family veterinarian and an engineering group, interviewing several engineers to explore my career options. I ultimately changed my major after realizing engineering was not the right fit, though I still hope to work with animals. NDA’s Senior Project allows students to experience real world careers based on their interests rather than just hearing about them, making it a valuable opportunity.”

Jessica (Batanian) Grisier '09
Communication and
Outreach Coordinator
with Lucas Soil & Water
Conservation District

Senior Project:
Shadowed at the Toledo Zoo

“I shadowed the Zoo’s education department, caring for animal ambassadors and assisting zookeepers. The experience strengthened my interest in the environment, wildlife, and conservation, and showed how meaningful hands-on learning can be for a student’s future.”

Carisa (Livecchi) Ebert '08
Criminogenic
Psychopathology

Senior Project:
Shadowed in physical
therapy

“I hated every minute of my Senior Project — nothing kept my interest! I thought I wanted to become an orthopedic doctor, but quickly learned my real passion was elsewhere. My graduate degree is in criminogenic psychopathology, and today I’m a government contractor working in a very niche field.”

Emily Domalski '08
Digital Illustrator

Senior Project:
Shadowed at a veterinary
clinic

“My experience sent me down a very different path. I enjoyed time with the animals, especially in the kitten room, but I don’t think I would have handled performing surgeries or putting animals down very well. The real-world experience of the Senior Project is invaluable to young students. For me, I needed that hands-on opportunity to really think about my future.”

Amanda Mincheff '06
AI, Product Analyst
Consumer Advocate

Senior Project:
Shadowed Toledo Police
officers and detectives

“I completed my project with the TPD. I got to review homicide cases, including very prominent cases in Toledo at the time. I also went on calls, including a short high-speed chase and on-foot pursuit. I planned to be a forensic psychologist, and ultimately ended up in a different field — but I believe all field experience is relevant.”

Tanya Tan '02
Integrated Marketing Leader

Senior Project:
Shadowed at the Philippine
Consulate in Chicago

“My experience confirmed that I wanted to stay in communications, but the government would probably not be the route. I really benefited from the real-life experience of leaving home, staying with friends of our family to complete my project. I took a communal train every day, I even had to pack a lunch! I learned so much.”

Creativity Action Service

NDA students who are pursuing the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme complete a CAS Project instead of the typical career exploration project.

The CAS Project is one of three essential elements that every student must complete to earn her IB Diploma.

“Perhaps a student is deeply moved by a particular social justice concern,” explains IB Coordinator Angie Joseph. “She is encouraged to research that topic and consider how she might positively bring awareness to it, or actively attempt to address it.”

The CAS Project at NDA involves a service-learning experience centered around a social justice issue or a community need. It includes a collaborative series of activities with one or more of the CAS components – Creativity, Action, and Service – and emphasizes leading a team toward a goal that meets an authentic need.

IB students are encouraged to reflect on what brings them joy, or sets a fire in their soul, when deciding on their CAS Project.



Although it may seem like a contradiction, students are encouraged to think small. “Meaning, what small thing can they do to address the concern they are drawn to,” says Ms. Joseph. “I remind them to think small, think local, think reasonable and doable – not grandiose.”

The CAS Project is an important counterbalance to the academic rigor of the IB Diploma Programme. It is meant to be both challenging and enjoyable – made up of experiences that are profound and lifechanging.



Eagle Networks

The NDA Career Counseling Office is always seeking local professionals in northwest Ohio for NDA girls to shadow. You can help us find networks among our alumnae, and within our NDA community, to assist our students. If you are interested in helping a student with her Career Exploration Project, please reach out to Jackie Flom at jflom@nda.org.

Hall of Fame 2026

Responsible Servant Leaders

At Mad for Plaid, Notre Dame Academy recognized two alumnae as the 2026 Hall of Fame recipients. These women exemplify how NDA empowers young women to be intellectually curious, passionately faith-filled, socially responsible servant leaders.

Sr. Marya Czech SND '63 received the Service Leadership Award, which honors alumnae who use their God-given gifts to serve others through extraordinary acts of compassion and community engagement.

Lindsay Fork '97 was presented with the Professional Achievement Award, which recognizes an alumna whose outstanding career accomplishments reflect the excellence, leadership, and values at the heart of NDA's mission. These women demonstrate what it means to be a Notre Dame Academy alumna — they are bold, compassionate, and deeply committed to making a difference.

Now Accepting 2027 Hall of Fame Nominations

Do you know an NDA alumna who lives the mission through service or professional excellence? Nominate her for the 2027 Alumnae Hall of Fame!

Submissions due by Friday, October 9, 2027.



Scan QR Code
to nominate
an alumna
today!



SERVICE LEADERSHIP

Sr. Marya Czech SND '63

Sr. Marya has shown lifelong dedication to education, environmental justice and advocacy, and grassroots empowerment.

Early in her ministry, Sr. Marya dedicated herself to academic instruction and led workshops on critical topics such as the environment, global affairs, and public health. She distinguished herself as a leading voice on environmental justice issues. Following the 2014 water crisis when harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie contaminated drinking water for nearly half a million people in northwest Ohio, Sr. Marya emerged as an advocate, helping the community understand this public health emergency.

Her commitment to social justice is also expressed through her work with Toledo's Junction Coalition, where she collaborates on grant writing and community coalition-building. Her work affirms that serving marginalized communities requires both compassion and the ability to navigate complex funding systems to build coalitions across diverse stakeholders while remaining grounded in the lived experiences of those being served.



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Lindsay Fork '97

Lindsay has built a nationally recognized bridal retail company rooted in purpose, innovation, and heart.

She began her career with a deep belief in service and meaningful experiences — values that were nurtured in her at NDA. She purchased La Jeune Mariee, a bridal shop in Columbus, Ohio, then expanded her vision with the creation of Luxe Redux Bridal as a solution for liquidating her boutique's inventory.

By 2024, her innovative approach to accessibility in bridal fashion led to creating the Ohio Bridal Outlet, completing a "good, better, best" retail model and uniting all three brands under Luxe Brands, which will reach 20 locations with 100+ employees nationwide this year.

Lindsay's leadership has earned significant recognition, including Columbus' Smart 50 Award and the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Her brands also continuously earn The Knot's Best of Weddings and Hall of Fame awards — accomplishments made possible through the service her team provides to every bride.

Mad for Plaid

The Notre Dame Academy community gathered on February 27 for the year's annual fundraiser, Mad for Plaid. Held on campus, the event offered an unforgettable evening and raised nearly \$188,000 for the bold, brilliant, beautiful, and blessed young women of vision at NDA.

Attendees enjoyed a lively event which included students serving appetizers and a delicious strolling buffet. The evening also featured a Silent Auction, Live Auction and \$5,000 Cash Raffle. A highlight of the event was the keynote student speaker, **Grace Shern '26**. Grace shared her personal story about strength, perseverance and friendship.

As the evening concluded, it was clear that the fundraiser was more than just an event — it was a true celebration of the past, present, and future NDA students.

We look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead.

Save the Date for next year, Friday, February 26, 2027.



Congratulations, Class of 2026!

The Notre Dame Academy Class of 2026 has earned scholarships and awards totaling over \$16 million, has been accepted to 137 schools, and has collectively given 10,623 hours of service locally, nationally in Appalachia, and globally in the Dominican Republic.



Valedictorian

Abigail Beier (right)

Salutatorian

Elise Busse (left)



Bishop's Cross

Jenna and Julia Chryst with NDA President Kim Grilliot, (left) and Principal Andrea (Zobler) Zimmerman '96 (right)

Evans Scholarship

Olivia Fall, Inverness Club



Blue and Gold Spirit Award

Maya Spencer (left)

Notre Dame Academy President's Award

Zoe VanOrden (center)

The Sisters of Notre Dame Distinguished Graduate Award

Tess Luebke (right)

CLASS OF 26



Dan Moeller Foundation

Morgan Smith

Alesi Scholarship

Josie Koszycki

Paul Nelson Randolph

Abundant Life Scholarship

Kizziah Armstrong and Lauryn Hancock





“
**Trust
yourself.
Show up
anyway.**
”

*Autumn Maher '17
Speaks to the Class of 2026*

Each year, an NDA alumna is welcomed back to speak to graduating seniors at the Mother

Daughter Luncheon following May Crowning.

This year, Autumn Maher '17 shared her story, with advice for the soon-to-be graduates.

Autumn shared, “I remember feeling excited to graduate and head to the University of Cincinnati, but I was also extremely nervous – to live on my own, to do my own laundry, to pick out my school clothes for the first time. I was nervous to say goodbye to many of my friends, and to leave behind the incredible community at NDA.”

She assured them that their years at NDA have prepared them to face life's challenges.

“The lessons I learned from NDA can be best summarized with four words you are all familiar with: BOLD, BRILLIANT, BEAUTIFUL and BLESSED,” explained Autumn.

“The sisterhood at NDA will always be here to celebrate your wins and support you through your life.”

Since becoming an alumna, Autumn has stayed connected to NDA, and she currently serves on the Building and Grounds Committee for the Board of Trustees.

“Giving back to this community has reminded me how special NDA is,” she reflected. “I encourage you to reflect on what you learned at NDA, and take that with you to college and beyond.”



MayCrowning

Congratulations to our Senior May Crowning Court

Crowned Mary
Josie Koszycki

Cross Carrier
Julia Chryst

Crown Carrier
Jenna Chryst



Congratulations to our JA May Crowning Court



Crowning Mary
Giselle Ramos

Crown Carrier
Emerson Earl



Cross Carrier
Aubree McNeal

Candle Carrier
Kathryn Melvin

President Kim Grilliot's Retirement

A visionary leader

Dear NDA community:



As you have heard, Mrs. Kim Grilliot has announced she will retire as President of Notre Dame Academy at the end of the 2026-27 school year.

We are deeply grateful for her years of dedicated service, and for all that Kim has done to exemplify NDA's mission of empowering young women. We celebrate her lasting legacy as we plan for the future.

NDA's President Search Committee is conducting a thoughtful, comprehensive, and mission-centered search for the next President of NDA. To help us attract the most talented candidates, we have engaged the services of Partners in Mission (PIM), a nationally recognized search firm dedicated exclusively to Catholic school leadership.

Together, we are deeply committed to identifying a leader who will honor and advance Notre Dame Academy's mission while providing strong, visionary leadership for the years ahead. We have developed a Prospectus, which outlines the qualities and experience we are seeking in our next President, while also presenting the opportunities and priorities that will shape NDA's future.



Together, we are deeply committed to identifying a leader who will honor and advance Notre Dame Academy's mission while providing strong, visionary leadership for the years ahead.

JENNY (CONRAD) SWOPE '83



We believe it will attract highly qualified candidates who feel called to serve this extraordinary community.

We anticipate selecting the next President early next year, with a start date of July 1, 2027. We ask for your continued prayers and invite you to assist us by sharing our Prospectus broadly.

On behalf of the Search Committee and the Board of Directors, thank you for your support. I am confident that, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will identify the right leader to guide Notre Dame Academy forward with faith, purpose, and strength.

Sincerely,
Jenny (Conrad) Swope '83

CHAIR, PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



For more information about the Presidential Search Process and past communications, please scan the QR code and visit NDA's dedicated webpage.

A 2013 Notre Dame Academy alumna who appeared on *Jeopardy!*

Who is Madeline Kaplan?

Madeline Kaplan '13 demonstrated that intellectual curiosity and a love of lifelong learning pay off — literally! Madeline appeared on *Jeopardy!* in May and won, with a payday of \$31,700 as champion, followed by \$3,000 for second place in her return game.



Photo courtesy of Jeopardy! Productions, Inc.

Jeopardy! host Ken Jennings stands with Madeline Kaplan '13 on the Alex Trebek stage.

JEOPARDY!

***Jeopardy!* has been on-air for 62 years and is one of the longest running game shows in the history of television.**

“I think crosswords help a ton, because it’s all about reading a clue or a question quickly and figuring out what they’re asking for.”

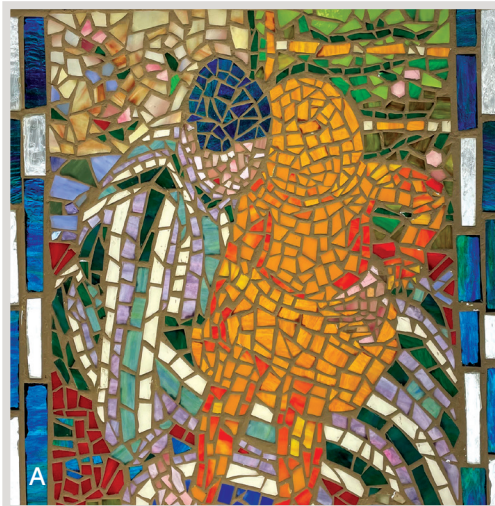
Madeline is no stranger to crosswords — she works as an assistant crossword editor for *Puzmo*, a word and logic game website and app.

Overall, her experience on *Jeopardy!* “was fantastic! It was stressful and surreal, but also fun from start to finish,” she shared.

“I tried to follow Mrs. Sanders’ eternally good advice to be like a duck — calm on the surface, but paddling like crazy underneath. I think it helped!”

Class of 2026 IB Art Spotlight

The IB Visual Arts course is a two-year program that students can elect to take to earn college credit during their junior and senior years as a four-year art major. As part of the college evaluation process, each senior IB Visual Arts Candidate curates a selection of her work to be featured in a solo exhibition.



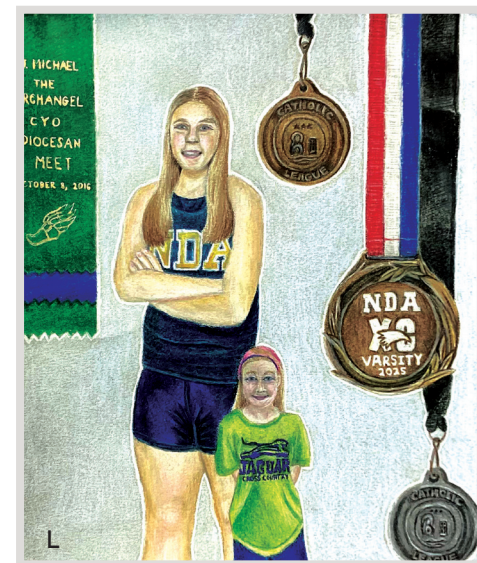
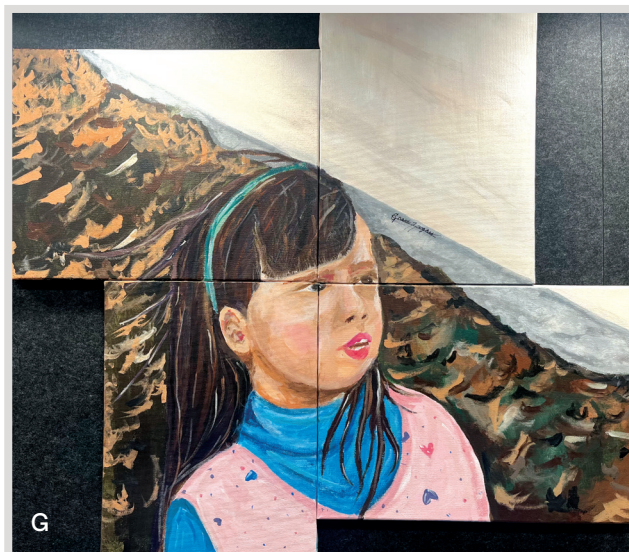
Celebrating art



Congratulations to our 12 SL and HL International Baccalaureate candidates:

- A. Elise Busse, *The Child's Bath*
- B. Sophia Walker, *Home*
- C. Madeline Riley, *Inner Beauty*
- D. Addison Steer, *Britney*
- E. Scarlett Morris, *Woodland Ventilation*
- F. Morgan Smith, *Dual Perceptions*
- G. Grace Hughes, *Lookalike*
- H. Erynne Byrne, *Cuyahoga Look Out*
- I. Evelyn Flanigan, *Conservatory of the Soul*
- J. Tyla Rayford, *Domestic Companion*
- K. Violet Gies, *Three Thousand Seconds*
- L. Erinn Verkennes, *Never Quit*





Athletics

GO EAGLES!

Spring Signings

We are so proud of our student-athletes! (l to r)

Erinn Verkennes '26
Trine University
Cross Country/Track & Field

Violet Gies '26
Otterbein University
Cross Country/Track & Field

KylieEmma Obeto '26
New York University
Volleyball

Julienna Koller '26
University of Detroit Mercy
Lacrosse

Jenna Chryst '26
Trine University
Lacrosse

Madelyn Martin '26
Saint Michael's College
Ice Hockey

Kallie Thames '26
University of Findlay
Basketball



ROWING NATIONAL COMPETITION

**Tess Luebke '26 (L)
& Julia Chryst '26 (R)**
Varsity 2x Boat -
Midwest Scholastic
Champions and competed
at SRAA Nationals



Athletic Highlights

New School Records

Softball

Payton Shively '26
Career Hits – 171
Career Doubles – 47
Career Batting Average – 0.512

Camdyn Escobar '26
Career Stolen Bases – 85

Track & Field

Violet Snyder '27
Long Jump – 17' 10.25"

**Meagen Carmack Locklear '28,
Violet Snyder '27,
Kennedy Kynard '27, &
Ja'Myah Bennett '27**
4x100M Relay – 47.80



Jenna Chryst '26
Lacrosse

STATE RUNNER-UP



**Ja'Myah Bennett '27, Kennedy Kynard '27, Violet Snyder '27,
& Meagen Carmack Locklear '28**

4x100M Relay 2nd at State Championship + All Ohio

State Competition and Recognition

Kallie Thames '26

*Basketball
2nd Team All-Ohio*

Brooklyn Armstead '27

*Basketball
Honorable Mention*

Violet Snyder '27

*Long Jump
5th at State Championship
+ All-Ohio*

Cydney Owens '28, Michaela Henderson '28, Ja'Myah Bennett '27, & Kennedy Kynard '27

*4x200M Relay
9th at State Championship*

Indoor Track & Field

Meagen Carmack Locklear '28, Michaela Henderson '28, Ja'Myah Bennett '27 and Kennedy Kynard '27

*4x200M Relay Team
6th at OATCCC DII State Championship
+ All-Ohio*

Violet Gies '26

*3200M Run
Indoor State Qualifier*



**YOU GO
GRACE!**



Congratulations to former NDA Eagle Grace VanSlooten on being drafted into the WNBA. Grace was the 39th pick overall and plays for the Indiana Fever.

While at NDA, Grace was named Division I First-Team All-State during both her sophomore and junior seasons. She was recognized twice as the D-I District Player of the Year. Grace played for the Michigan State University Spartans for the past two years, after playing her first two college seasons with the University of Oregon.



**ONCE AN
EAGLE.
ALWAYS AN
EAGLE.**

Class Notes

EagleWatch

1970s



Gail (Vascik) Hogan '74 is excited to share her novel, *The Dawning of Tess*. While this book is fiction, she took much of the inspiration from her time as a young radio journalist in Columbus, Ohio. (The work world could be challenging for a young woman during the 1980s!) But Gail was passionate about her profession, and worked in broadcasting for 35+ years. After working in radio, Gail joined a TV station, and moved up the ladder to become prime time anchor, and later a talk show host for a local afternoon program. She worked at NBC 4 in Columbus for most of her career, and even married her husband, Dan, after interviewing him for a story.



The NDA class of 1977 gathered for dinner and fun conversation!

1990s

Jenny (Bennett) Chirico '92 has been named the next principal of Lial Catholic School. With 26 years at Lial, and after receiving numerous awards for education excellence, Jenny will bring exceptional experience, deep faith, and a lifelong love of learning to Lial students in her new role.



2000s



Annie Baymiller '00 has been promoted to Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer with Owens Corning. In this role, she will continue to accelerate the use of advanced digital tools and analytics to enhance efficiency and support customer growth and engagement. Annie has driven digital technology innovation to improve customer engagement and increase operational efficiencies during her 20-year career with the company. Her strategic vision has been instrumental in strengthening OC's technology roadmap and enabling growth.



Katie (Litle) Wellbrock '00 received her Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) from the College of William and Mary in May 2025. Her NDA classmate and friend, Danielle (Bihn) Addison '00, surprised Katie on her graduation day!

Katy (Pounds) Balch '06 is working toward her JD degree at South Texas College of Law, which she expects to complete in 2028. She previously has earned bachelor's degrees in English and Philosophy from Arizona State University.



Do you see the resemblance?

Sarah (Clark) Kurtz '07 seemed a little more excited about wearing her NDA bib, compared to her daughter, Olivia, who is almost 2!

2010s



Nicky (Young) Brancato '12 and her husband, Colin, met up with **Sr. Mary Ann Culpert SND '75** while on their honeymoon in Rome!

Sierra Hairston '12 was featured in the Toledo Blade for her new restaurant venture, RARE Savory Taste Kitchen, which opened in Toledo last June. The food featured at RARE Savory Taste Kitchen reflects Sierra's savory cooking style, featuring indulgent dishes that speak to the soul. A few menu favorites are the shrimp and grits, the seasonal French toast, chicken and waffles, and the fried catfish with house-made tartar sauce. Sierra tries to keep the menu items at a reasonable price since the restaurant is close to the University of Toledo's campus.

April Varner '15 shared that her third jazz album, *Ella*, was released on March 20, 2026. *Ella* pays tribute to the great Ella Fitzgerald. Learn more about April's albums and performance schedule at AprilVarner.com



2020s

For **Lauren Devine '20**, medicine has always been about people - something she discovered at Sunshine Communities. Now a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine candidate at Ohio University, Lauren continues to serve Sunshine, an organization she first volunteered with when she was an NDA student, as part of the annual Y.E.S. Project. "The campers and other Sunshine individuals bring me back each summer. Witnessing their growth each year — not just physically, but in confidence, independence, and capabilities — is incredibly special. Summer Camp creates a space full of genuine engagement and joy. Whether it's a trip to the zoo or simply playing in the yard, watching campers have fun never fails to bring a smile to our faces as staff. I am grateful to have found such a meaningful place to work," she shares.



A'Nyah Woodard '24 attends The Ohio State University, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Upon graduation, she plans to attend graduate school with the goal of becoming a practicing Physician Associate.

NDA's Christmas trip to Appalachia is all in the (Wisniewski) family! Alums **Katie '20 and Libby '25 Wisniewski** along with their dad, Jeff, shared in the joy of this year's mission trip.



With only four days left before commencement, **Rhiannon Zenz '26** completed her solo 150-nautical-mile flight and earned her private pilot's license before graduating from NDA! This Fall, Rhiannon will enter the Aviation Professional Pilot Program at Kent State University.



EagleStory

Have an interesting story? We would love to know about it.

Email
Melanie (Egan)
Ogrodowski '93 at
mogrodowski@nda.org

Visiting Alumnae

On the Road



Ann Arbor, Michigan

Standing, L to R: Lisa (Farinella) Anacker '06, Caitlyn Miller-Olmedo '15, Alaina Rogacki '10, Melanie (Egan) Ogrodowski '93

Seated, L to R: Kerri (Gramling) Neville '06, Erin (O'Brien) Kaleba '93, Tolani Afolabi, NDA VP of Advancement, Kate Balzer '06, and Jenny Kolpien '93



Cleveland, Ohio

L to R: Tolani Afolabi, NDA VP of Advancement, Rebecca (Roman) Jenkins '89, Linda (McFarland) Schlageter '60, Bridgette (Langhals) Dempsey '89, Mary (Gawronski) Weaver '69, and Kim Grilliot, NDA President



Denver, Colorado

Clockwise, L to R:

Madison (Reape) Petre '15,
Kim Grilliot, NDA President,
Nicole (Maher) Hepler '09,
Ashley Dixon-Anderson '01,
Bridget Roman '88,
Sarah Ohlinger '17,
Tolani Afolabi, NDA VP of Advancement,
Sandra (Schafer) Ferraro '86,
and Colleen (Pero) Ceyssens '86



Los Angeles, California

L to R: Alexandra August '01,
Kim Grilliot, NDA President,
Tolani Afolabi, NDA VP of Advancement,
Patricia Beckmann-Wells '83,
and Meredith Kitz '00

We would love to visit you!

If you are connected to other NDA alumnae in your area, and would like to host or help us plan a gathering there, please email
Melanie (Egan) Ogrodowski '93
at alum@nda.org.

Our Eagle Family is Growing

EaglesNest

Susannah Hillard '01 and Ryan Rees welcomed a daughter, Lulu Inez

Emily Jagos '06 and James Noyes welcomed a son, Franklin John

Abigail (Beham) Hankenhof '09 and Matt Hankenhof welcomed a daughter, Gemma Jo

Chelsea (Gerken) McTigue '10 and Ty McTigue welcomed a daughter, Darby Jeanne

Sally Stearns '10 and Mike Alvarado welcomed a daughter, Sofia Isabel

Taylor (Smietanski) Bolazina '11 and Connor Bolazina welcomed a son, William

Heidi Wiczynski '11 and Michael Sears welcomed a son, Jettson Michael

Jenna (Livingston) Hamlin '12 and Matthew Hamlin welcomed a son, Lucas

Caitlin McComish '12 and Matthew Zmuda welcomed a daughter, Annie James

Teagan (McNamara) Barany '15 and Stephen Barany welcomed a daughter, Juniper Marie

Kaayla McIntyre '15 and Jerry Moore III welcomed a son, JayCee Karter

Annie (Ingham) Messiter '16 and Nate Messiter welcomed a son, John Henry

Mary (Bishop) Shear '16 and Robbie Shear welcomed a daughter, Rosemary Alice



Lindsey (Cavese) Scherting '07 and Andrew Scherting welcomed a son, Theo Thomas

OneEagle

Engagements

Sarah Johnston '04 to Theodore Hughes-Riley

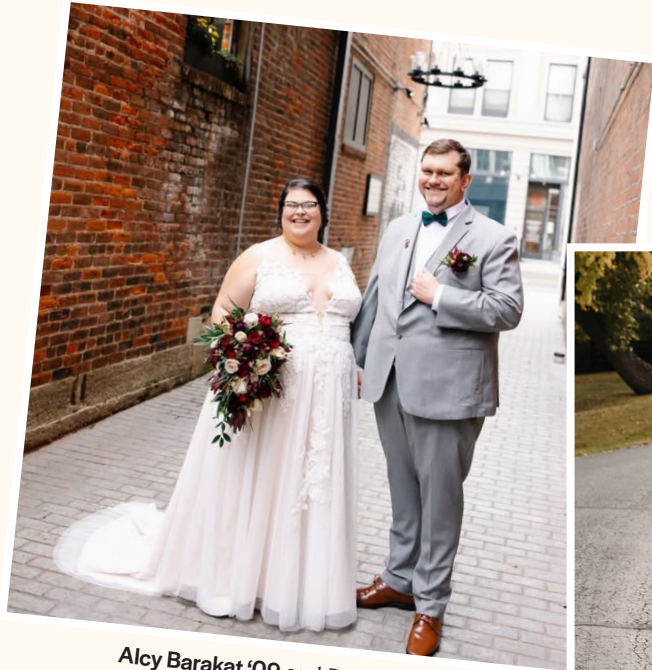
Marriages



Naomi Hiraue '93 and William French

Christina (Nicky) Young '12 and Colin Brancato

Isabel Nester '21 and Griffin Kennedy



Alcy Barakat '09 and Brad Fattlar



**Calla Gilson '14
and Keith Burns**



Alaina Rogacki '10 and Steven Kluck

In Memoriam

Donna (Young) Ciaffaglione '46

Naomi (Matuszek) Kowalski '49

Madonna Sue (Muenzer)
Douglas '53

Jayne (Edinger) Ohneck '54

Sally Holt '57

Phyllis Maunz '58

Carol (Eckhardt) Vance '58

Mary Agnes (Dennis) Vislay '58

Beverly (Dydo) Wilson '60

Linda (Essex) Thibert '61

Mary Ann (Dumas) Suto '62

Patricia (Rutkowski)
Raczkowski '64

Mary Ann (Blanchard)
Hauptrecht '65

Nadine Holtz '65

Michele (Schramm) Smith '65

Jane (Glick) Snodgrass '66

Janice (Huber) Lucas '69

Heidi (Tietjen) Godmair '81

Tymara (Smith) Walker '96



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BACK TO THE NEST FEST!

Sunday, August 16
1 - 4 pm

Food trucks, yard games,
inflatables, and fun!

