

### **What is Grand Beginnings aka GB?**

Grand Beginnings is a wonderful evening where our community gathers to celebrate Notre Dame Academy, and it is our largest annual fundraiser. The money raised helps to fill the gap between the actual cost to educate our students and the cost of tuition. The cost to educate a child at NDA is \$10,781 and our tuition this year is \$5,250. This includes everything from curriculum enhancements to salaries and building upgrades so that we can continue to educate our children at the highest standards as well as give them a faith based education.

### **How does the evening work and what can I expect?**

Expect to feel the love of the NDA community! This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with other parents and staff members and make new friends! GB is on Saturday, November 23rd, at the Marriott Southwest in Minnetonka. When you arrive you will see the friendly staff ready to check you in, where you will receive your table assignment. You will also have the opportunity to buy heads and tails games and purchase cash raffle tickets. From that point, you are invited into the beautifully decorated ballroom to peruse through the incredible silent auction items. Keep in mind, Christmas is just around the corner and this is a great place to buy Christmas gifts! Continue to mingle, enjoy a beverage of choice at our cash bar, and then hit up the added photo booth and post to your favorite social media platform. Don't forget our #NDAFaithful! Enjoy live music while bidding on silent auction items such as toys for the kids, spa experiences, recreational activities, gift cards, and home decor. Additional opportunities would include our very popular buy-ins parties! After the silent auction closes, dinner will be served around 8:00pm. Wrapping up the night will be the live auction with items of all kinds. Tickets will go on sale Thursday, October 10th and we are already accepting donations. We appreciate your support and participation to help us make this important event a success!

**Is seating assigned?**

Yes seating is assigned. You can make seat request by adding whom you would like to sit with in the comments section in BidPal at checkout when purchasing your tickets. We make every effort to honor those requests, however, if you are unsure who you would like to sit with, feel free to request your Good Shepherd or other parents in your child's grade.

**Can I buy tickets at the door?**

Unfortunately no, this is an RSVP party only.

**Can I bring my children?**

GB is an adult night only. This is a great way to connect with all the parents and teachers in the school. It's a fantastic date night out!

**Can I bring guests that do not attend NDA, IHM, or St. Gabriel's?**

Yes! Please bring whomever you would like to attend and who would be willing to support the school.

**What is the requested attire?**

GB is the perfect event for women to wear a LBD (little black dress) and men typically wear suits. However, please don't let this deter you from joining in on the festivities, come in what you feel comfortable in.

**Am I required to buy anything?**

Absolutely not! We hope you find something you would like to bid on, and we strive to have all auctions items at varying levels to accommodate all financial levels, however, the most important thing is that we build community by meeting other supporters of NDA.

**How much do the tickets cost and what is included in that?**

Full ticket prices are \$100. First time attendees and past parents attending GB are offered a reduced ticket costing \$75. NDA has decided to incentivize first time families and encourage old friends to participate! We understand it is a financial commitment and we want to try our best to include everyone. With the full ticket you will receive the opportunity to bid on both live and silent auction items, play heads and tails, enjoy a full sit-down dinner, create memories with friends and support our incredible school. We also have a mini-ticket option. The mini-ticket costs \$40 and allows the purchasers to attend the silent auction from 5:30-7:30pm with appetizers included.

**Where can I get additional information?**

<https://nda-mn.org> has a GB page coming soon!

**What are teacher treats?**

Have you heard this phrase around school? Teacher treats are a very generous donation of time from the teachers where they will take the highest bidders' children to do an event special outside of school. Activities have included cookie decorating, going to a movie, or attending a play.

**What are Buy-ins?**

These are events that you purchase during the silent auction that give you and your family access to additional community building activities such as:

- Santa Breakfast
- Women's Weekend
- Men's Weekend

**What is group bidding?**

Group bidding is when you and your friends all get together ahead of GB to go through all the live auction items and decide as a group what you would like to bid on. Then you will assign one person to do the bidding and as a group decide how much you are willing to spend on that experience. At the end of the night the total selling price will be divided by your group. Great Group Bidding auction items would be:

- Sports Ticket package
- Curling Experience
- Bikes & Brews
- Barn Party

**Is there a raffle? What can I win?**

Yes! We will have a cash raffle. This is a pre-event sale item. Students will bring home raffle tickets to sell for \$5/ticket or \$50/10 tickets. You do not have to be present to win the cash raffle. First prize is \$500, Second prize is \$250, and Third prize is \$250.

**How can I contribute to an auction item or be a part of the GB team?**

We are always looking for additional volunteers to help with both the live and silent auctions. No volunteer position is too small. Donations of all kinds are always welcome. Please contact: [office@nda-mn.org](mailto:office@nda-mn.org)

**What is the Stop, Drop and Drive?**

This is a convenient way to donate to GB! All you have to do is bring your donations through the drop off carpool line and one of the silent auction team members will be there to take it for you. The first one of three will be Friday, October 25th. If you don't come to school on a regular basis, another easy option is donating to the silent auction through our Amazon Wish List.