



NOTRE
DAME
ACADEMY



ANNUAL REPORT



“ Therefore,
encourage
one another
and build one
another up, as
indeed you do

— *Thessalonians*

”

A MESSAGE FROM DR. JUNGELS



Greetings of gratitude to our greater NDA community. We enjoyed a wonderful school year filled with joy and love. Each day we focused on Thessalonians: “Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do” by fostering beautiful relationships and making wonderful memories throughout the year. What a gift to see students from ages two to fourteen learning, growing and discovering their God-given talents and potential.

At Notre Dame Academy, students are known by name, have buddies as friends and role models and can celebrate successes and make mistakes in a comfortable and safe environment. They hone their academic skills as well as explore abilities outside of their comfort zones.

We are so proud of our school as we see our enrollment grow and so many families and friends giving of their time, talents and treasures to make us a strong, vibrant and unique school. And most importantly we have a beautiful, tight knit, supportive faith community. In short, we have an awesome school, and we appreciate that you are part of our community.

God’s peace and grace to you,

Dr. Bonita Jungels
Principal

STATE OF THE SCHOOL

Our biggest focus during the 2023-2024 school year was improving our safety and security. Notre Dame Academy is so grateful for the many ways we have been able to address security and safety with the money raised during our Grand Beginnings Fund-a-Need last year. See page 17 for details.

Additionally we worked on creating a new school wide behavior system. We are very proud of the great work accomplished on our Strategic Plan!

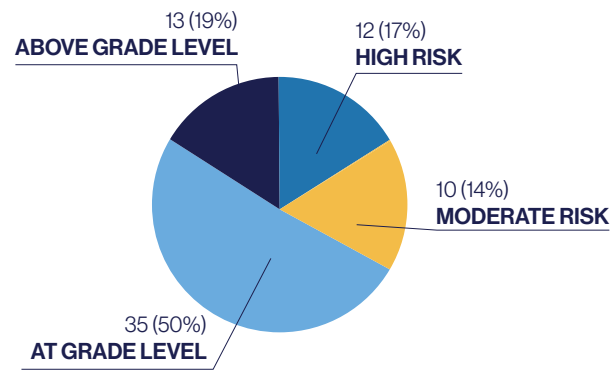
BELIEVE AND READ RESULTS

Our Groves reading program is a research based phonetics based system that has shown great results in introducing effective literacy techniques to our young readers. The following depicts our results from the 2023-2024 school year.

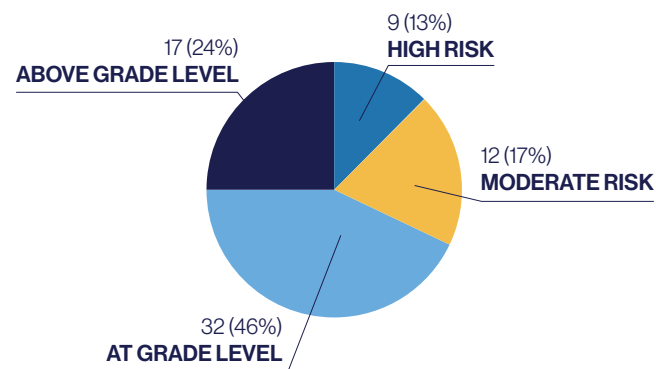
We also created a school wide system for tracking academic standards being taught so we can identify standards accomplished as well as any overlap or gaps.

ORAL READING FLUENCY 1ST-3RD GRADE OVERVIEW

FALL 2023 RISK CATEGORY



SPRING 2024 RISK CATEGORY



MAP TEST DATA

Each year NDA students in grades 1-8 take the MAP assessment three times a year to track their growth and allow faculty to see valuable information on student skills teachers can then differentiate and individualize learning for students. Grades 1-2 take an auditory assessment in reading and math. This

assessment is one snapshot in time but also provides valuable data. Grades 3-5 take reading, math, and language arts assessments and grades 6-8 also add science. Our data shows that our students consistently outperform national norms.

READING		
Grade	National Norm Score	NDA Mean RIT Score
1	171.4	180.8
2	185.6	193.7
3	197.1	206.5
4	204.8	207
5	211	217
6	215.4	220.2
7	218.4	220.6
8	221.7	221.6

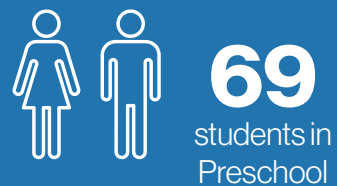
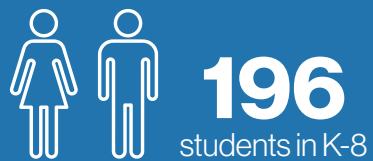
MATH		
Grade	National Norm Score	NDA Mean RIT Score
1	176.4	182.7
2	189.4	198
3	201.1	215
4	210.5	213.5
5	218.8	230.8
6	222.9	228.6
7	226.7	235.3
8	230	238.8

LANGUAGE ARTS		
Grade	National Norm Score	NDA Mean RIT Score
3	198.3	207.4
4	205	206.5
5	210.2	219
6	214.2	222
7	216.5	224.9
8	218.8	227.3

SCIENCE		
Grade	National Norm Score	NDA Mean RIT Score
6	208.5	213.7
7	210.6	214.3
8	213.4	216.8

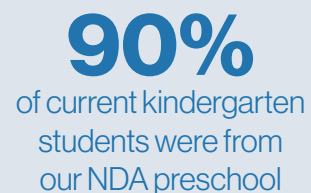
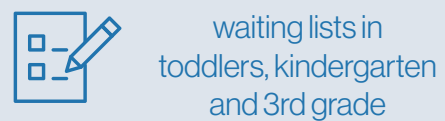
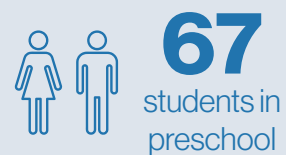
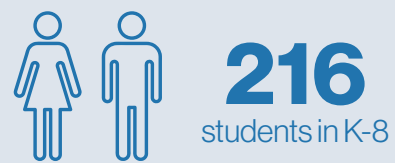


ENROLLMENT FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

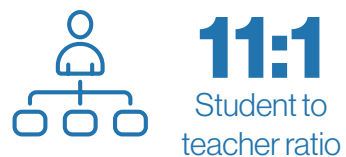
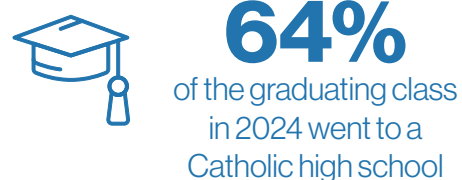


CURRENT ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION SNAPSHOT

FOR **2024-25** SCHOOL YEAR* **As of the print of this publication*



BY THE NUMBERS



NDA is more than a school, it's a place that allows your child to succeed, safely fail, develop their true self, realize their potential, learn about our shared Christian values, participate in sports and the arts, and cultivate emotional intelligence beyond their own intellectual potential. Notre Dame isn't just a place to get a good education; it's a place where children learn how to be good people!

– Current Parent



BELIEVE AND READ

Q/A WITH MS. KEENAN

Kindergarten Teacher and Believe and Read Coach



Q: How would you describe Believe and Read to a new parent or someone outside of our school?

Believe and Read is our core phonics curriculum developed by Groves Academy, rooted in the Science of Reading. This program provides a

clear framework for students and teachers alike to help students become fluent, confident, and excited readers. Teachers are able to provide systemic, developmentally appropriate lessons using Believe and Read. In simple terms, it is teaching students to decode, spell, and read in the most developmentally appropriate way possible. It incorporates predictable lessons, building mastery in all concepts.

Q: How has Believe and Read influenced you as a teacher?

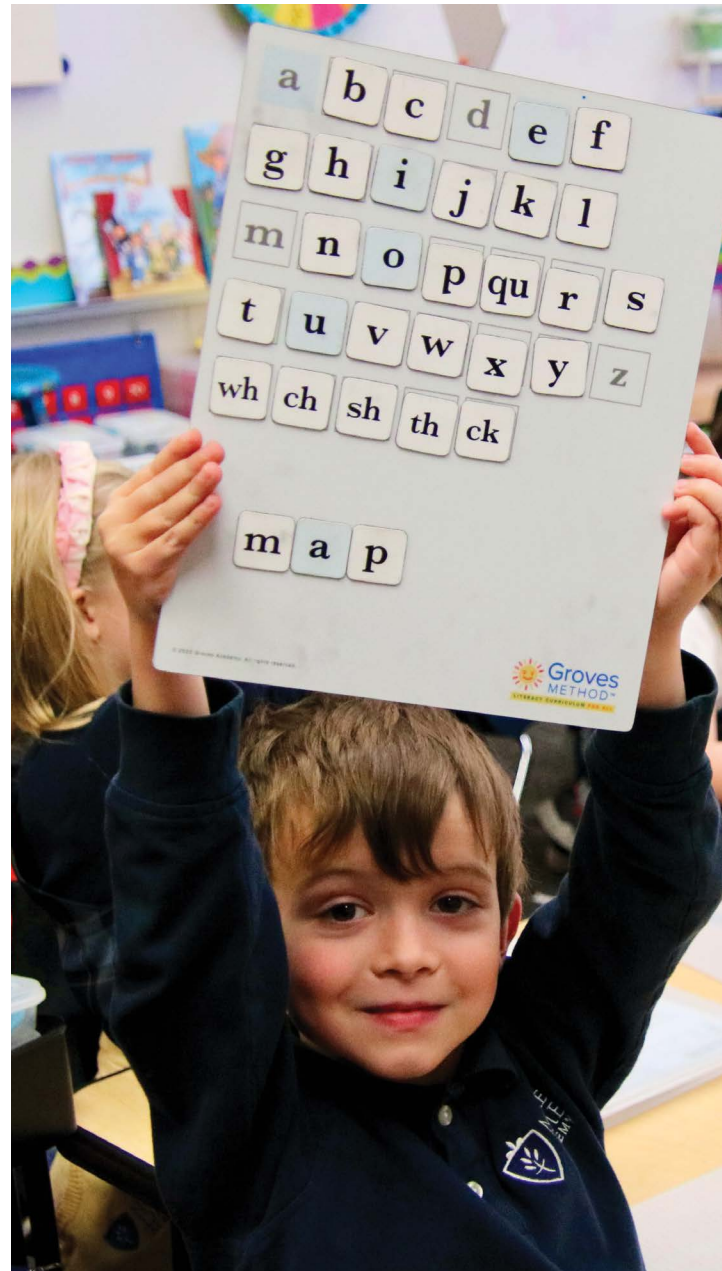
As a teacher, I have always devoted myself to looking at data and research to discover what is the most beneficial way to teach my students. Believe and Read aligns with everything that I have learned and known. Getting the opportunity to get feedback and support from our Groves coach has been extremely beneficial. I really enjoyed having an expert in my classroom that I could turn to with any questions. Having another set of eyes on my students, digging into data, and providing tips helped me in so many ways.

Q: What is your unique role as a Believe and Read coach?

As a Believe and Read coach, I have the privilege to see all of our students and teachers shine. In my time in classrooms, I am modeling lessons, providing feedback to teachers, and watching students progress. Not only is it a privilege to see former struggling students confidently tap out a word, but it is also a privilege to step into each classroom and see our teachers work their magic.

Q: How does Believe and Read influence other areas of learning?

Reading is an essential part of all learning and Believe and Read is helping create proficient readers. While this is only our 3rd year in the program, I am excited to see how student knowledge helps them in middle school and beyond. I can see the confidence and joy in students with the routine, predictability, and support this program provides. Students are transforming into strong, confident readers, which sets them up for great success.



Q: How has the program impacted students (ie: measurable progress)?

Believe and Read has numerous positive impacts on our school. Teachers are using the data provided every day to see how we can support students in small groups, reteaching a lesson, and seeing if further intervention is needed. In every grade, we are seeing huge growth in our students- from the high fliers to those who need additional support. Students know what to expect due to the consistency and repetition of the program. Not only does this increase their confidence, but it also increases their engagement and excitement.

Q: Can you share a favorite story of success?

As a Kindergarten teacher, I often see the reading light bulb start to glow towards the end of the year and it clicks in 1st grade. One of my favorite moments every year is the look on a student's face when they tap out (read) a three letter CVC word for the first time. The pure joy, excitement, and surprise is a moment that I wish everyone could witness. I am able to see their world open in such a fundamental way. This year, my current favorite success story is when we were getting ready for phonemic awareness, a group of students looked at me and said "It should be called FUN-emic awareness!"



In every grade, we are seeing huge growth in our students- from the high fliers to those who need additional support.

- Hallie Keenan
Kindergarten Teacher
Believe and Read Coach



SHAPING FUTURE LEADERS

MIDDLE SCHOOL AT NOTRE DAME ACADEMY



Middle school is a vulnerable time of life filled with rapid change, new social expectations, and uncertainty. Notre Dame Academy has experienced significant growth recently in its middle school program. Parents are making the conscious choice to seek a school that fosters growth, character development, and academic excellence; a school like Notre Dame Academy.

Academic rigor across disciplines prepares our students for high school. Alumni consistently share with our faculty that they feel academically ready, know how to think critically, and are able to navigate the next level of education. Middle School Social Studies teacher Mr. Kelly Dopp recalls a favorite story of an alum who returned to his class to visit as a high school senior. "Hearing a former student share that she was ahead of others in her high school classes and confident at a bigger school because of her time at NDA was very rewarding."

NDA's middle school goes one step further to cultivate a supportive environment where students feel valued and understood, empowering them to reach their full potential. Ms. Aggie Maurer, Language Arts teacher, embraces being known as a strict teacher who holds her students to a high standard, and argues this doesn't prevent her from being a lot of fun, too. She reminds her students that learning comes from

being challenged, and from challenge comes maturity and growth. Students develop a strong rapport with her and, "...reach out when things are hard because they trust me. They know I will listen." This trust and accountability cultivates a foundation for student success, both academically and personally.

Our small class sizes, a culture of celebrating success, and students who support one another fosters a sense of shared responsibility. Mrs. Pam Murphy, the middle school Math teacher, recalls the day a large, framed picture of Blessed Mary fell and the glass shattered. "As we were cleaning up the glass, one of my students stopped and asked her classmates to pray over the picture. They all stopped, and we prayed. Wow, it was such a significant moment." This is a wonderful example of the presence of faith in all facets of an NDA education.

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE BOX

The Academic House Team and the annual trip to Eagle Bluff Environmental Camp are two examples of initiatives that not only enrich the educational experience but also instill core



values of collaboration, responsibility, and environmental stewardship among the students.

The House Team was introduced at NDA a couple of years ago to create a cohesive and supportive environment for students in grades 6-8. By grouping students into mixed-age houses with patron saint names such as St. Francis of Assisi and St. Scholastica, students have an immediate home, a sense of belonging and camaraderie. Students earn points through various House Team competitions and activities that foster teamwork. Points are also awarded in recognition of positive behaviors such as standing up for a peer, befriending someone who is alone on the playground, or helping a classmate who is struggling with an assignment. Students learn to support and celebrate each other, fostering a culture where getting caught doing good is embraced, and individual talents are encouraged. The House Team who accumulates the most points throughout the year receives the NDA Cup.

As a Catholic school, we are also committed to teaching in the classroom and practicing environmental stewardship in our day-to-day routine. Students, parent chaperones, and staff engage in experiential learning about nature and sustainability in the annual sixth grade trip to Eagle Bluff Environmental Camp. Through hands-on activities like tree-top challenges, pond explorations, and environmental literacy lessons, students develop critical thinking skills and a deep appreciation for the environment. Parents observe and participate with their children and classmates in the high ropes course during the day, and create strong bonds with other parents over the three-day trip. An immersive experience like this not only enhances academic learning but also nurtures a sense of responsibility towards caring for the Earth.

SPECIALISTS

Classes including vocal music, band, Spanish, health, and technology offer students ways to experience learning differently while exploring subjects that may pique new interests and talents. Problem-solving and critical thinking skills can be discovered and enhanced, developing well-rounded students who are prepared for high school.

We are fortunate to have an amazing faculty who genuinely care for each and every student they encounter fostering an environment where students thrive and grow into compassionate, confident leaders.



Hearing a former student share that she was ahead of others in her high school classes and confident at a bigger school because of her time at NDA was very rewarding.

– Kelly Dopp

Middle School Teacher



WHAT MAKES NDA SPECIAL

FAITH AND SERVICE

NDA provides an innovative curriculum that cultivates critical thinking and curiosity in learning within an inclusive atmosphere where your child can bloom in a safe and faith centered environment. As a Catholic school the important traditions of faith and service are infused into the curriculum and can also be seen in everyday interactions at NDA.

In addition to prayer throughout the day, weekly Mass, monthly Adoration as well as rosaries and the Living Stations, students become the hands and feet of Jesus to neighbors through service projects such as the annual ICA Food Drive. Often students offer prayers for the intentions of others, teaching them to rely on their faith in times of need. An expectation of kindness and respect is reinforced and inspires students to be good people. Developing character is critical to student success in all areas of their school careers and in their lives.

The NDA community is a unique combination of faculty, parents, parishioners, grandparents, and leaders committed to helping students reach their full potential while remaining rooted in their faith. By serving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves, NDA students become who Christ created them to be.

REACHING ALL LEARNERS

Notre Dame Academy provides advanced level classes for students who need to be challenged further through flexible learning opportunities, differentiation, and individualization of some instructional areas.

Additional support is also available for students through our Student Assistance Team, learning specialists, title services, and special education services. Additionally, Notre Dame Academy does its best to meet the unique needs of students with Learning Accommodation Plans and Individualized Education Plans.

DIVERSE COMMUNITY

NDA provides a welcoming atmosphere for all students and families who come to our regional school from more than a dozen different school districts. Our school community includes a diverse mix of families with a handful of native languages spoken at home.

In a typical year, 25% of our student body comes from a diverse background and about 75% of our students are Catholic. We invite families from all religions to learn more and love sharing our Catholic traditions.

As a member of our school community, you will have the opportunity to meet other parents and families at several events throughout the year including the fall fest, trivia night, golf tournament, and school gala. There are also several opportunities for parents to volunteer throughout the year.

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD

Notre Dame Academy is fortunate to participate in many programs that help children succeed and work toward their unique potential. Our social emotional program, Top 20 Training, is integrated throughout every day providing students with important life skills. We partner with Peace of Mind to offer students an on-site counselor from Phoenix School Counseling. Additionally, several monthly sessions are offered for parents that provide helpful tools needed to support their child. At NDA, we also offer a well-rounded approach to our curriculum by offering music, band, art and STEM classes through Makerspace. NDA is also proud to offer many extracurricular activities such as chess club, and athletics including soccer, volleyball, basketball, and run club.



EXPLORING SUCCESS BEYOND NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

MATTHEW DEAVAN NDA CLASS OF 2015



When students pass through the halls of Notre Dame Academy, they are unknowingly beginning a transformative journey that sets the foundation for their future successes. NDA positively influences and impacts its students in an environment that nurtures not only academic growth,

but shapes its graduates to be good humans grounded in faith. The value of relationships fostered within NDA's small size leads to connections and friendships that endure through the years, enriching the lives of its alumni.

Matthew Deavan came to NDA in 3rd Grade. He recalls the warm welcome of Mrs. Segar and his classmates that made this scary transition simple. After graduating in 2015 from NDA, Matthew attended high school at Holy Family Catholic High School, and then the University of Iowa, where he pursued his passion for cinema and screenwriting. Matthew thoughtfully recalls his time at NDA and how his experience shaped him for the future.

The third grade Super Adult project stands out as a pivotal moment in which he learned the importance of teamwork, feedback, and public speaking. Grandma Stetz traveled all the way from Boston to be honored by Matthew as his Super Adult! While this project, its process, and the event itself made an impression at the time, it wasn't until Matthew was sharing about his favorite college class, screenwriting, that he realized its lasting impact. Why did Matthew love his screenwriting class? Because he worked with other students who provided one another feedback to bring their ideas to fruition on stage. The same process, years later, continued to influence Matthew as a young adult.

Despite not identifying himself as a standout athlete, Matthew recalls the inclusive and supportive athletic culture at NDA. "Everyone wanted to be involved and part of a team. We were definitely more interested in the snack than the results on the scoreboard". Matthew chuckled as he recalled many moments on the soccer field and basketball court, yet became a bit more serious when recalling coach Scott Thompson and his focus on the importance of being part of a team. His philosophy emphasized effort and the value of learning from mistakes. Not trying was simply not acceptable. These ideals seamlessly align with the nurturing environment focused on growth and resilience that is part of NDA's philosophy today.

NDA played a crucial role in shaping Matthew's character and leadership skills. The 8th Grade buddy program instilled in him a deep sense of responsibility and the importance of influencing and guiding younger students. "Keeping students in line at Mass and knowing these little people are looking up to you made a difference in our behavior. As eighth graders, we were all of the sudden the school leaders." These foundational experiences at NDA inspired Matthew to pursue other service opportunities including his impactful work with the Miracle League Basketball program. Leadership skills, an athletic experience rooted in effort and growth, and a love of service became the perfect combination to create a rewarding experience coaching athletes with special needs.

Recently Matthew returned to NDA as a freelance videographer to produce an enrollment video. Matthew experienced a sense of nostalgia as he wandered the familiar hallways and classrooms. He recalled the detail of the bumpy blue stairs and the familiar chaos and camaraderie in the Middle School hallway. The atmosphere that once felt overwhelming and vast was revealed as the intimate atmosphere of NDA, reminding him of the supportive community that played a pivotal role in his formation: community where students find not only academic enrichment but also invaluable life lessons and people who guide them toward a future filled with purpose and success.

YEAR IN PHOTOS



FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023-24



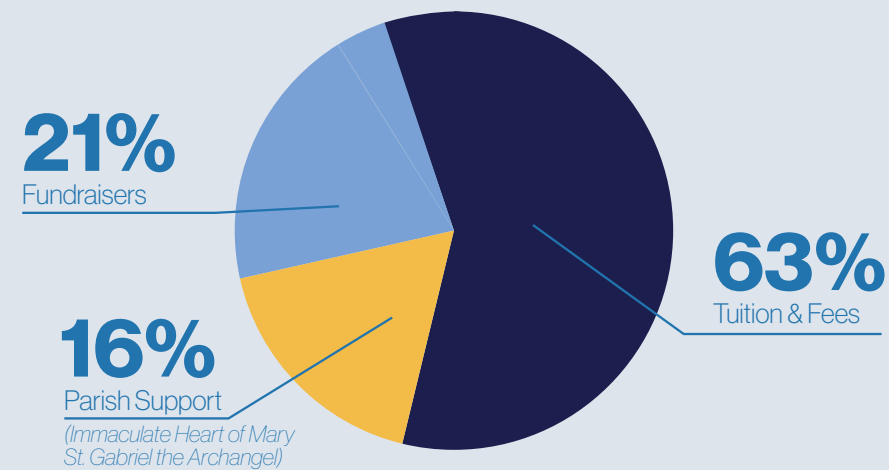
\$10,000
Cost to Educate a Student

\$5,995
Cost of Tuition



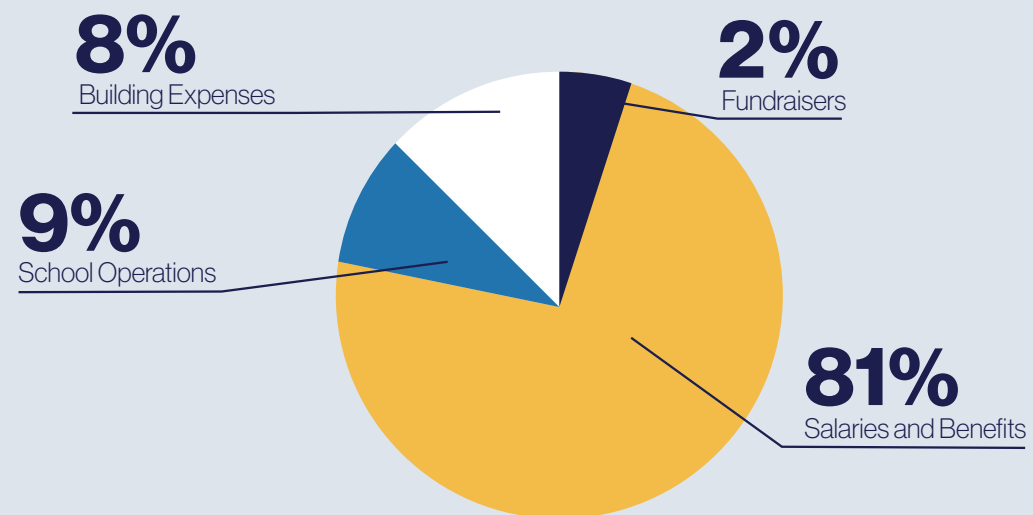
\$405,000
Fundraising Goal

2023-24 SCHOOL INCOME



*Excludes Restricted Income of \$124,853

2023-24 OPERATING EXPENSES



YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

As the Development Director, my first responsibility is to ensure our Annual Giving efforts satisfy our budgetary needs and keep tuition affordable and accessible for all families who desire an NDA education. Day of Giving, Marathon, Grand Beginnings, and the Annual Golf Tournament are among the annual opportunities you supported to raise the \$405,000 necessary to meet our 2023-2024 budget. As a community you not only responded to driven efforts to satisfy the annual financial goal, but also graciously provided for additional projects through Fund-A-Need at Grand Beginnings.

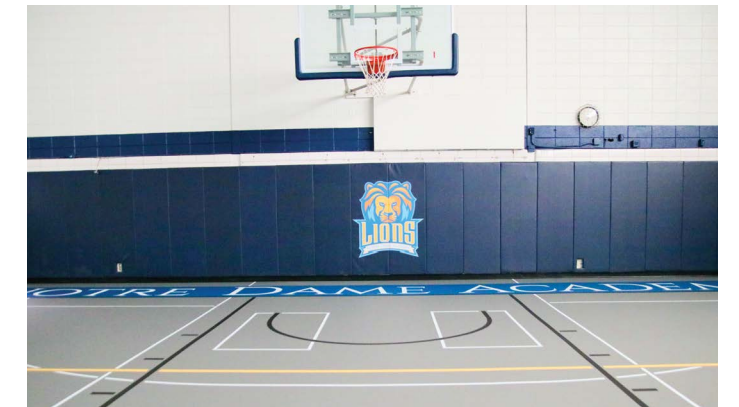
I am filled with joy to share this impressive list of enhancements and upgrades completed at our school, projects only possible because of your unwavering support of NDA.

ENHANCED SECURITY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND STAFF:

- Security cameras have been installed both in and outdoors of the school, church, and parish buildings.
- We installed an EverAlert communication system with monitors that provide audio and visual alerts in all classrooms.
- Speakers were installed in locations that are harder to hear including the gym, hallways, IHM and outside playgrounds.
- Security film was installed in places of vulnerability to make gaining access to the building extremely difficult.
- An additional restroom was installed in the Immaculate Heart of Mary gathering space, securing access to the school from Mass attendees or other church guests.
- An additional restroom was added near the main entrance of the school to accommodate guests during the school day.

UPDATED ATHLETIC AND ACTIVITY FACILITIES:

- We resurfaced and enhanced the gym floor including the addition of the NDA name and logo.
- Crash mats were replaced and additional mats were purchased to wrap the entire gym perimeter.
- Enhancements including a cement base and rubber flooring were made to the Gaga Pit.



ENHANCED CLASSROOM SPACES:

- We remodeled a storage space to create a new classroom including tables and chairs, cabinets and counter tops, new carpet and paint, and an upgraded door.
- Locker enhancements to provide efficient use and maximize storage were completed in two classrooms.
- Solar window film was placed on four classroom windows to lower heat gain.



Together, we have made amazing things happen. Every gift, every student, every day. Your gift makes a difference as we continue to deliver excellence in Catholic education. Thank you.

PARTNERSHIPS MATTER

A NOTE FROM VIVIAN PRITCHARD

Development Director



The impact of your philanthropy goes beyond mere images and words on paper. Witnessing the generosity of the Notre Dame community is a constant gift of inspiration to me. I see the impact of your giving as I watch expert educators fill young minds with knowledge that inspires their futures, friendships develop between children

who unaware of socio-economic differences but are guided by the same values and principles learned at NDA, and parents who watch their children discover who Christ intends them to be.

For those of us who work in Catholic education, it is a calling. Each day our work goes beyond the education found at other schools out of a desire to give our students and families the best opportunities. Whether it is matters of faith, curriculum, culture, or mission, the richness of our school continues to grow and impact our students because of your investment and belief in a Catholic education.

In a world where life is fast-paced, screens are considered connections, and we've become conditioned to constantly seek information, I challenge you to pause. Genuinely notice those around you and seek ways to connect to one another that requires conversation.

Lead with curiosity and listen; you might appreciate a different perspective. It is through these authentic connections that true partnerships become realized partnerships with parents, students, faculty, alumni, grandparents, parishioners, administration, business and community leaders, and benefactors creating a community where students can flourish.

At Notre Dame Academy we guide our students to discover their unique calling and become who Christ intends them to be. Thank you for your partnership. I am deeply grateful for the trust, encouragement, and financial support you share with us so we can do this most important work.

MAKE AN IMPACT – GIVE TODAY

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STOCKS AND SECURITIES

Gifts of appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds are an excellent way to support NDA and maximize tax savings.

PLANNED GIVING – LEGACY GIFTS

A planned gift to NDA ensures the continuation of excellence in Catholic education and creates your own legacy of support. You can do this by designating Notre Dame Academy in your will or making NDA the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy.

EMPLOYEE MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable donations made by their employees, doubling the impact of your gift. To find out if your company has a matching gift program, reach out to your company's HR or Charitable Giving department.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

In-kind donations, most commonly professional services and material goods, further our work and help us to maximize resources.

MEMORIALS AND HONOR GIFTS

Making a gift to NDA is a powerful way to honor a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. Not only will your gift express your love—it also helps give the gift of Catholic education. These gifts can be made in memory of someone who has passed away, in gratitude for someone extraordinary in your life, or to acknowledge achievements or milestones.

DAY OF GIVING



\$10,000
2024-25 Cost to Educate a Student

\$6295
2024-25 Cost of Tuition



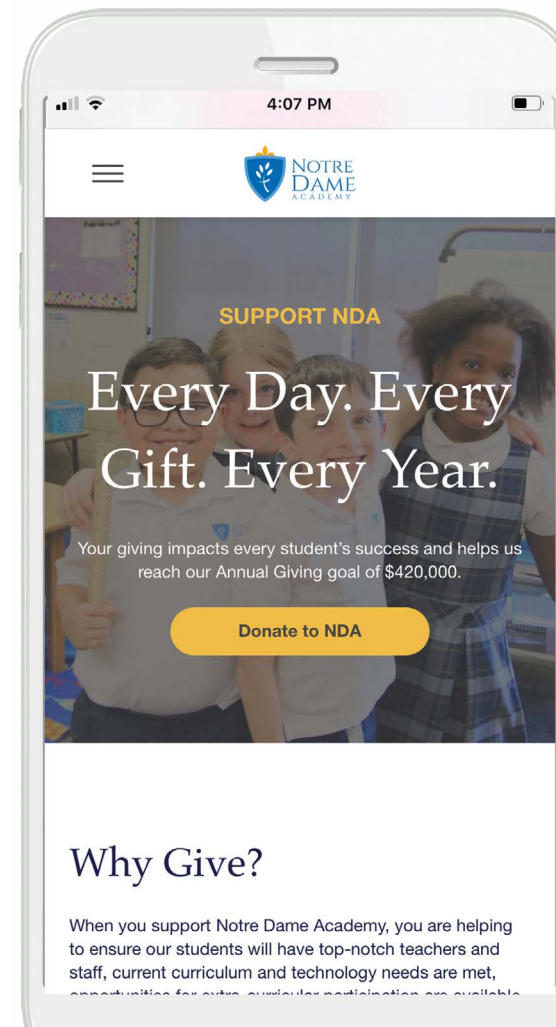
\$420,000
2024-25 Fundraising Amount

\$150,000

Your gift is the difference



Together, let's provide the financial foundation our Catholic school needs to succeed.



Want to Learn More?

Check out our giving page to learn more about all the ways you can make a gift today

Want to Sponsor an Event?

Reach out to Vivian Pritchard, Development Director vpritchard@nda-mn.org or 952-388-6753 to learn more about different sponsorship opportunities.

Questions?

Reach out to Vivian Pritchard, Development Director vpritchard@nda-mn.org or 952-388-6753.



DONOR HONOR ROLL

We are so grateful to those listed below – alumni, parents of alumni, current school parents, grandparents, parishioners, staff, businesses and foundations – for investing in the mission of Notre Dame Academy. Annual contributions made between **July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024** include cash gifts and sponsorships toward funding various opportunities including Day of Giving, Marathon, Grand Beginnings, Fund-A-Need, the Spring Musical, and the Annual Golf Tournament.

\$15,000 – \$30,000

Anonymous (1)
Sam and Cindy Hanson
Greg and Stacy Schumacher
Bill and Joan Slattery

\$10,000 – \$14,999

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Pete and Leeann Deavan
Heather Fitzgerald
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\$5,000 – \$9,999

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W. Peter Wheeler
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\$2,500 – \$4,999

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\$1,000 – \$2,499

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Bill and Sue Weiner
Brandon and Jessica Wills

Nina Wilson
Kathie Witta
Rita Zebeck
Elaine Zitzman

\$500 – \$999

Eric and Erin Bale
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Gregg and Cynthia Dyste
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John and Joann Hillen
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

1



Parents, Alumni, and Friends – grab your team of up to 8, pick a theme, grab your costumes and get ready to test your trivia skills.

MAY

3



By attending or supporting the event you are helping decrease tuition costs, update our classrooms and meet a host of needs for students and teachers alike.

MARCH

20-23

School Musical

Every spring, NDA's Middle School puts on a musical production. Tickets are sold for five performances and sponsorships are also available for families or local businesses.

MAY

5



Join us for the 4th Annual NDA Golf Tournament at Deer Run Golf Club in Victoria. Enjoy 18 holes of golf, a cart, lunch, happy hour, dinner and prizes for winners.