

A Message from the Principal's Office



A Message from the Principal's Office

May 1, 2026

Dear NDHS Families,

Happy May Day! Today, we will gather as a school family to celebrate Mass in honor of our patroness, the Blessed Mother, Notre Dame. During this liturgy, led by members of our Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) affinity group, we will crown Mary, not as an act of worship, but as a sign of our love and reverence, recognizing her as Queen of Heaven and Earth. This beautiful tradition has long been part of the life of the Catholic church and schools during the month of May, a month dedicated to her. As we honor Mary, we also take time to recognize all mothers, those who are with us and those who live on in our hearts. With gratitude and love, we wish all our mothers a very happy Mother's Day!

Today also marks the beginning of the mad dash to the end of the school year. There are officially 14 days until final exams begin, and so much that needs to happen within this condensed time period. Please be sure to read this newsletter carefully so you don't miss any important deadlines.

Next Monday, May 4, marks the start of the **Advanced Placement (AP) exam period**. Parents and students are encouraged to revisit the AP section of the Student-Parent Handbook and the AP Commitment Contract that students signed when enrolling in AP courses. A reminder to parents of seniors: students' efforts on AP exams impact not only their individual success but also our school's overall passage rate, which plays a role in the school's reputation with colleges and universities. We ask that you encourage your students to take these exams seriously, even if they don't need the advanced placement credit. Our AP teachers work tirelessly to prepare students, and it can be disheartening when a student doesn't put forth their best effort. The teachers truly care about their passage rates and put tremendous work each summer into revising and updating their curriculum based on their students' performance each year. We know you've raised your students to be respectful and responsible, so we thank you in advance for reinforcing this important message!

In celebration of **National Teacher Appreciation Week** (also starting May 4), we encourage students (and parents!) to take a moment to thank a teacher who has made a positive impact this year. A simple email or note, or even a quick thank you after class, can go a long way in showing appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

The *Academic Bulletin* section of this newsletter includes important information about the **Online Study Day** (Thursday, May 21) and **Final Exams** (May 22-28), so please read it carefully. Please note that the final exam schedule may vary for students who require extended time, so students should check the schedule closely. A reminder to parents: each academic department has its own policy for accepting late work. Students should consult their teachers if they are unsure about deadlines. To receive credit for their work, students must adhere to the deadlines set by their teachers, as school policy does not allow extensions beyond the last day of semester classes, which is Wednesday, May 20, at 3:00 p.m.

Summer school registration is now open. While some classes are already at capacity, a few in-person courses may be canceled due to low enrollment. If your child plans to attend NDHS Summer School, please register as soon as possible to ensure courses meet enrollment requirements. Inadequate enrollment classes will be canceled in mid-May.



Baccalaureate Mass will take place on Friday, May 29, at 7:00 p.m. on the NDHS field. Seating and parking will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, with no assigned sections or tickets required. Families with a legacy connection to NDHS, whether through alumni parents, grandparents, or siblings, are encouraged to share that information when responding to the forthcoming email invitation. If you are a legacy family, [please click here](#).

Commencement exercises will follow on Saturday, May 30, at 9:00 a.m., also held on the NDHS field. Gates will open at 7:30 a.m., and seating and parking will again be first-come, first-served. Graduates should report to the gym no later than 8:00 a.m. For complete details, please consult the [Baccalaureate and Graduation Information 2026 document](#).

The final weeks of the school year move quickly, and this edition includes important updates to help keep you on track. We encourage you to review it thoroughly. In addition, a comprehensive list of Important Senior Year-End Events 2026 has been prepared for seniors and their families.

As we near graduation, I want to express my deep gratitude to our senior families. Your partnership, generosity, and presence over the past four years have made a lasting impact on our Notre Dame community.

Wishing you a joyful close to the school year, and a blessed Mother's Day to all of our NDHS mothers.

Blessings,

Alice Cotti, Principal

LA Galaxy Tickets at a Discounted Rate for Notre Dame Families:

Periodically, we receive special offers for discounted tickets to local sporting events and attractions, which we are pleased to share with our families. Please click [here](#) for details on how to purchase tickets to four LA Galaxy matches at a reduced price.



Mandatory Physical Exams for School Activities and Regular School Attendance



Exer Urgent Care is proud to support your school with complimentary physical exam screenings for all NDHS students!

Book Your Complimentary Physical Exam/Sports Screening

- 1 Scan the QR code or visit www.solvehealth.com/book-mgroup/pkRgxQ
- 2 Select a clinic and appointment time. Appointments are first come, first served. Complimentary physical exam screenings must be booked from **May 1 – August 31, 2026**. If you don't see a time that works for you, select a different date or clinic to view other options.
- 3 When asked, "What's bringing you in?" click **Sports Screening**.
- 4 Fill out the remaining questions. When you're finished, click **Confirm and book now**. You will receive a text confirmation to the phone number you provided.



Scan to book now!

Registration Tips

Once you have booked an appointment, you will receive a text confirmation with a link to complete your forms. **Please complete your forms before your appointment.**

Be prepared to upload a parent or guardian ID to complete your paperwork.

Visit ExerUrgentCare.com/Community to learn more.



LET'S GET
YOU BETTER.

*Program dates and appointment availability are subject to change

Our attendance office supervisor, Lia Shaw, has arranged for free physicals at all Exer Urgent Care locations again this year. The closest location is within walking distance of NDHS at the Corner of Riverside Drive and Fulton Avenue in Sherman Oaks. Appointments other than the assigned dates are \$75 per physical.

We know that many families have limits in their insurance policies that indicate only one physical examination annually. So we are grateful to our partners at Exer (and Ms. Shaw!) for providing this convenient and affordable way to do so that doesn't impact families' insurance policies. Students who plan on being on campus for any reason starting June 1st must have a current physical exam form uploaded to their Magnus health portal as well as all of the requirements completed no later than 6/01/26. All other NDHS students must have a current physical exam form uploaded

into their Magnus Health account no later than August 7, 2026, in order to attend the freshman orientation as well as start the 1st day of school. [Click Here](#) for Physical Exam Form.



In order to upload documents to your student's Magnus account, you need to go to the school website, ndhs.org. Go to logins and then go to the Magnus blue box to log in. Once you're logged in, you will see there are "requirements" that need to be fulfilled/forms to be signed. That is where you can upload documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Lia Shaw at lshaw@ndhs.org.

Academic Bulletin

Deadlines for Missing or Late Student Work

Each academic department sets its own policy about accepting late work. Students should check with their teachers if they are unsure about the policies. In order to receive credit for their work, students must honor the deadline that teachers have given them to turn in any missing assignments. Please know that while teachers and departments may set earlier deadlines for late/missing work, school policy prohibits teachers from extending any second-semester deadlines beyond **Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.** Once again, whether or not a teacher accepts late work at all is based on individual teacher and department policies. The May 20 date does not mean teachers must accept work until this date; it means they cannot accept work after that date. They can set an earlier deadline, but not a later deadline.

End of Semester Study Days

Study Days for second-semester finals will take place on campus on May 19 and 20, and online from home on May 21. There will be no new material, assessments, or major projects/assignments due during this time. Teachers will be reviewing and helping students prepare for finals in class following the regular class schedule on this last Blue Day/Gold Day rotation on Tuesday and Wednesday, and available via Zoom for individual time on Thursday. Because Thursday, May 21, is an online day, students should be working from home. Teachers will not be available on campus that day. Teachers will be holding virtual drop-in office hours and review sessions on Zoom, following the schedule listed below:

[NDHS 2025 -2026 SPRING SEMESTER ONLINE STUDY DAY SCHEDULE](#)

Spring Final Exams – May 22 to 28

Final exams will be given for all classes on May 22, 26, 27, and 28. ***Finals do not follow the regular class schedule.*** The students will come to school for exams and then be dismissed. We will conclude the semester on May 28, and then the Baccalaureate Mass will be on Friday, May 29, and the Graduation will be on Saturday, May 30. Exams will be on the following days:

- Friday, May 22 Periods 1, 2
- Tuesday, May 26 Periods 3, 4
- Wednesday, May 27 Periods 5, 6
- Thursday, May 28 Period 7

Final exams are required and must be taken on the assigned day and time for all classes. As you plan any trips or vacations, please ensure that your departure is *after* the final exams are completed. It is important to check now because it may be much more expensive to rebook trips closer to the date. Per **school policy** ([Parent/Student Handbook](#), page 13), **final exams may not be taken early** to accommodate vacations or other personal



circumstances. Additionally, this policy aligns with **California Education Code § 48205**, which sets strict guidelines for excused absences.

A detailed final exam schedule is available at the link below:

[NDHS 2025 -2026 SPRING SEMESTER FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE](#)

Seniors and Second Semester Grades

Seniors are reminded that even if they have already been accepted to attend a college, the college can and will revoke an acceptance if the student fails to continue to earn appropriate grades in the second semester. Earning a “D” or “F” in any course may render the senior ineligible to attend college, and, depending on the college, remediation may not be possible. If a senior earns a failing grade for the semester, the student is ineligible to earn their diploma pending remediation of the failing grade, regardless of the total credits the student has posted. Senior students are encouraged to continue to work hard in all their classes and with their teachers to help ensure a successful finish to their senior year.

Summer School Remediation

Students who earned grades of “D” or “F” for either the fall and/or spring semesters may need to attend summer school to remediate the grade. For a grade of fail, the student must attend the Notre Dame summer program <https://www.ndhs.org/2026-summer-knights> if the course is offered. If the course is not offered in person at Notre Dame, the student must attend Notre Dame’s online provider, Catholic Virtual.

The counselor will assist the student in coordinating appropriate remediation through Summer Knights or Catholic Virtual. If a grade of “D” was earned, the school strongly recommends the student remediate the grade for college admissions eligibility purposes, as well as to prepare for success at the next level of the subject next year. Summer school remediation policies can be found on Page 14 in the [Parent-Student Handbook](#). Please contact the counselor if there are questions, and contact summerknights@ndhs.org with questions regarding Notre Dame Summer School.

Course Selection for 2026 - 2027

All students returning to Notre Dame should have submitted their course requests to their counselor.

- Course requests are now locked through mid-May for processing so that the administration can determine course enrollments, staffing, academic budgets, and transfer student applications. Policies regarding course request selection and changes can be found in the [Parent-Student Handbook](#).
- Students will receive an email notification during the week of May 18th indicating the required courses, honors/AP courses, and “first-choice” electives they have been approved to take. **From that point, students will have until June 1st to request possible changes in their courses.** Course change requests submitted by June 1st are subject to course enrollment projections and can only be processed on a space-available basis. Late requests for change at that time are not guaranteed. Depending on the course, a request for change may be waitlisted or may not be possible.
- If the student will not be attending Notre Dame in the fall, kindly notify the counselor.

Spring Semester Grade Snapshots



The 15-week grade snapshot will be verified and posted to MyNDHS during the Week of May 4th. **This is the final progress report grade pull for the Spring Semester.** If you have questions about a specific course or grade, [please contact the teacher directly.](#) The student's counselor is available to assist and advise students on ways they might prepare for final exams. Finally, students struggling in a course must personally communicate directly with their teachers and regularly attend X-period to receive extra guidance or assistance in the course.

Academic Honors Awards Ceremony

The Academic Honors Awards Ceremony will take place on **Wednesday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m.** in the gymnasium. Seniors who are earning awards and recognition that evening will be notified prior to the event with an invitation. More information will follow. **The Academic Honors Awards Ceremony is for Seniors only.**

SUMMER KNIGHTS - Summer School Information

Registration for Summer Knights has launched, and we are excited to offer numerous courses for student advancement, remediation, and enrichment. Please review the course catalog below to see what courses are available.

[HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER COURSE CATALOG](#)

To register for a course, go to the registration page located [here](#).

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Notre Dame is offering exciting middle school programs this summer. Please review the offerings on the Notre Dame website and sign up today! The link to sign up is listed below:

[MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM REGISTRATION](#)

If you have any questions regarding our course offerings or registration, please contact Mr. Jared Anderson-Minor at summerknights@ndhs.org.

NEWS from the BUSINESS OFFICE

ATTENTION SENIOR FAMILIES

All student account balances must be paid by May 15th for your student to:

- Attend Grad Night
- Receive their diploma

If you are facing extenuating circumstances and require additional time, please contact us at studentbilling@NDHS.org as soon as possible.

Note:



If you are on an existing payment plan and your payments are current, this notice does not apply to you. You can log in to the portal at any time to view your billing information, change payment methods, etc., by clicking on the Blackbaud Tuition Management tile on your [myNDHS Resources](#).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter!

NEWS from the DEAN'S OFFICE

Student Pick-up and Drop-off Concerns

Please do not drop off or pick up near the corner of Woodman and Huston, where the street narrows; the southside curb is a “no stopping” zone. Waiting for your child here creates a hazard. Please use the Woodman lot or the Riverside gate to maintain safe pedestrian conditions. Thank you for your cooperation.

School Uniforms

ORDER by June 15th to receive uniforms in time for the 2026-27 school year! The link to the company is [here](#). The Notre Dame High School's code is **NOTR09**. [Click here](#) for more information on the ordering process.

Remaining Detention Hours

Students who owe detention hours must serve them before the end of the school year. If freshmen, sophomores, or juniors do not finish their detention hours by May 28th at 12:30 pm, then they may be put on probation and/or have additional hours added to the following school year, depending on the severity of hours not served. **If seniors do not finish their detention hours by May 27th at 3 pm, then the Deans will call them in to discuss consequences.**

- May 6-7 (3-5 pm)
- May 9 (8-10 am)
- May 13-14 (3-5 pm)
- May 16 (8-10 am)
- May 19-20 (3-5 pm)
- May 27 (1-3 pm)
- **May 28 (10:30-12:30 pm; Underclassmen only - Seniors have Graduation Practice at this time)**

Attendance in May

Please ensure your children are coming to school every day. Teachers do not have the time to re-teach material at this point in the school year, and students' grades will most likely drop due to missed lessons and assignments.

If your child has excessive absences (exceeding the 8 absence limit) in any class this year, the Deans may contact the parents to discuss an attendance contract for the Fall 2026 semester. All absences that are not a school activity count toward the 8-absence limit.

All tardies are considered unexcused unless there is a large freeway closure. Any individual circumstances are considered “unexcused,” which is why we give students 4 “free” tardies each semester for personal exceptions. Tardies #5-9 incur



an hour of detention each, Tardies #10-14 incur 2 hours of detention each, and any additional tardies are 3 hours each and will require a conversation with the parents to stop the excessive tardies.

Thank you to parents who are proactively communicating reasons for absences to Attendance@ndhs.org. Your diligence keeps our records accurate to help maintain your child's safety. When we do not have a reason for a student's absence within 2 days of the absence or tardiness from parents, we may give the student detention for truancy.

NEWS from the TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

2026-27 On-Campus Parking for Rising Seniors

Rising Seniors (Class of 2027) will receive an email with a form link to sign up for on-campus parking spots in early May. Sign-up is first-come, first-served. Students who had mall parking this year will be guaranteed an on-campus parking spot. These spots are \$550 for the year. If your child is not driving until the second semester, they will not be assigned a spot until they register later. Parking assignments will be emailed to students' emails by August 7th. Parking stickers will be distributed at the Senior class meeting during the first week of school.

2026-27 Mall Parking for Rising Juniors

Rising Juniors (Class of 2028) will receive an email with a link to a form to sign up for mall campus parking spots (located directly behind the Bank of America) in early May, sent to their ndhs.org email account. The charge for those reserved spots will be \$325 for the year. Students who purchase mall parking are guaranteed an on-campus parking spot during their senior year. If your child is not driving until the second semester, they will not be assigned a spot until they register later. Parking stickers and placards for mall parking will be distributed at the Junior class meeting during the first week of school.

2026-27 Street Parking

Students who drive to school without a reserved spot will need to register once school starts and pay the \$50 registration fee. The registration form gives students guidance on where they are allowed to park around the campus, e.g., students are not allowed to park on Morrison or Ventura Canyon.

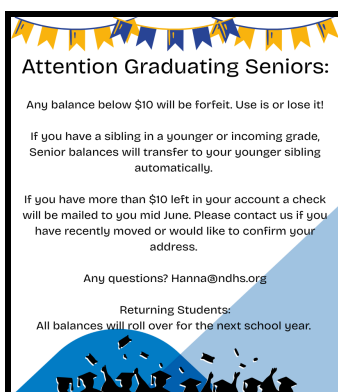
Please contact Mr. Kevin Rinder at transportation@ndhs.org if you have any questions.

NEWS from the CAFETERIA

Cafeteria Account Balances

For the month of May, cafeteria staff will not allow students to go negative to purchase food. Students must have money in their account or money in their hand.

For students who currently have a negative balance, please settle those balances by May 8th. Again, during these last few weeks, our cashiers will be directed not to serve students who have a negative balance. Please have your student check their





balance with a member of our staff, or use [EZSchoolPay](#) to monitor lunch account balances and set a reminder for a low balance.

ALL NEGATIVE BALANCES MUST BE PAID BY MAY 8th

Information for Seniors. If you end the year with a balance over \$10, a check will be mailed to you from the cafeteria Mid June. The cafeteria database has addresses from when you registered as a student. If you need to update your address, please email cafeteria@ndhs.org or hanna@ndhs.org to confirm your new mailing address.

Information for incoming freshmen and transfer students. The new freshman class of 2030 and transfer students will be added to the cafeteria database by August 1. This database is separate from the school's database and will allow you to access new students through [EZSchoolPay](#). Cafeteria staff will also be available for freshmen and transfer parents on Orientation Night in August to answer any questions and accept deposits for lunch accounts. For more information, check the ND website under the [Parent tab](#) for Cafeteria or EZ School Pay.

NEWS from the OFFICE of DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

May AANHPI Pop Up

May is Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month! **Our AANHPI Pop Up will be on Tuesday, May 19, during lunchtime.** During this event, students and Holy Cross educators will have a taste of AANHPI cuisine through sample-sized dishes and treats. We will be celebrating with the entire Notre Dame community by featuring traditional Asian cuisines. AANHPI families are encouraged to participate and showcase their dishes.

Parent/Family Volunteer Opportunity: We need you to help us make this event a success! Whether you would like to **provide food for the pop-up** or **help us with the event**, please [sign up at this Sign Up Genius Link](#).

The Sign Up Genius will close on Friday, 5/15, at 3pm. You can add this event to your Google calendar from this [link](#)!



Senior Send-Off Recap

In April, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office, in collaboration with the AANHPI, Parents of Black Knights, and Unidos parent groups, each hosted senior send-offs for our AANHPI, Black/African American, and Hispanic/Latino communities! Our chaplain, Father Joe, was able to give each celebration a special blessing as our seniors move on to share their talents with the world. We are so fortunate to have wonderful students, Holy Cross Educators, and families to spend this cherished time together. You can see photos from the events [here](#).

Parent Affinity Group News

AANHPI Parent Group: Congratulations to our AANHPI graduating seniors! We are so proud of all that you've accomplished and look forward to seeing the incredible paths you will take beyond graduation. Thank you to everyone who



joined us for the senior celebration dinner. Events like these truly highlight the strength and unity of our AANHPI community.

JustFaith: Last JustFaith meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 13, at 7 PM!** [RSVP Here](#)

Important DEI Dates - including Jewish American Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month!

[Click Here](#)

NEWS from the INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Thank you for your generosity and support! We are transforming the Notre Dame High School experience one gift at a time. Here are some ways you can get involved:

The Alumni Annual Appeal has launched!

Notre Dame's Alumni Annual Appeal has officially launched, and we're kicking it off with a little friendly competition. We're challenging every decade of Knights from the Class of the '50s all the way through the 2010s to donate to our Annual Fund, AKA Notre Dame Fund. The Notre Dame Fund, which enables NDHS to offer a world-class college preparatory education, competitive athletics programs, attract and retain highly qualified educators, and competitive tuition assistance packages that help ensure that no barrier – financial or otherwise – stands between a qualified student and a Notre Dame education.

Early returns are in, and the '90s have taken an early lead. If you know an alum, please let them know about the appeal and help inspire them to give to the Annual Fund today!

40th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament - May 11

We are excited to share that the Notre Dame High School Scholarship Golf Tournament on Monday, May 11, 2026, at Woodland Hills Country Club is officially sold out. This incredible response reflects the generosity and commitment of our community to Notre Dame's mission and its tuition assistance program. Tickets are available for the dinner and reception at 4:00 PM. A waitlist is available for those interested in playing should a spot open. Contact Charlie Perkins at perkins@ndhs.org.

[Advancing STEM Excellence:](#) Notre Dame High School has launched an ambitious initiative to advance STEM excellence through the renovation of the Hampton Science Center. This \$3 million project will transform our aging laboratories and classrooms into modern, fully equipped learning environments designed to inspire curiosity, collaboration, and discovery.

If you, as a family or a business, want to discuss ways you can support NDHS, please reach out! Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Michelle Koenig Barritt '90, at 818-933-3681 or barritt@ndhs.org.

Senior 2026 Legacy Families



Families with a legacy connection to NDHS, whether through alumni parents, grandparents, or siblings, are encouraged to share that information when responding to the forthcoming email invitation. We are honored to celebrate the many legacy families who are part of the Notre Dame community. Thank you to our multi-generational families, those who have entrusted Notre Dame across generations, for continuing the Holy Cross tradition and advancing our mission. If you feel that you are a Notre Dame Legacy Family and are not listed below, please contact Charlie Perkins, Alumni Officer, at perkins@ndhs.org.

Student Name (ND Alum) Family Name

Bianca Sobel (Mary) Panos Family
Christa Endoso (Danilo) Endoso Family
Cynthia Conomikes (Christine) Naim Conomikes Family
Elle Meichtry (Matthew) Meichtry Family
Francesca Fadin (Elizabeth) Zgradic Zirnhelt Family
Kaitlyn Mero (Jennifer, Ryan) Montanio Mero Family
Kasia Alvarez (Monica) Bin Alvarez Family
Gerald Trovela (Gerald) Trovela Family

Student Name (ND Alum) Family Name

Kellen Lennon (Tim) Lennon Family
Mauro Morgan (Genevieve, Michael) Marcellino Morgan Family
Siena Pondella (Matthew) Pondella Family
Sydney Hall (Luchanna) Wijewickrema Hall Family
Thomas Wightman (Steven) Wightman Family
Vem Tarassians (Lara) Sarkissian Family

NEWS from the ACTIVITIES OFFICE

Coffeehouse

Notre Dame High School's acoustic musical performance night, "Coffeehouse," will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Notre Dame Quad. Families are invited to attend this event, and there is no admission charge. Come out and see our amazingly talented musicians and singers. If you have any questions, email Mrs. Alexandra Patarias at patarias@ndhs.org.

Grad Nite

Grad Nite this year will be held at Six Flags Magic Mountain on Friday, May 15, 2026. Permission slips are available in the Main Office, outside the ASB office, and on Canvas and are due by Tuesday, May 12. Tickets are on sale via the GoFan app for \$175 per person. [Click Here to Purchase Grad Nite Tickets](#). If you have questions about Grad Nite, contact Mrs. Patarias at patarias@ndhs.org.

Graduation Information - please refer to the 2026 Senior Year-End Letter.
(See Attached 2026 Senior Year-End Letter)

NEWS from PERFORMING ARTS

Join Us for the Acting IV Honors Senior Show!

This May, the graduating actors of Acting IV Honors will present Neil Simon's *Rumors*! When they gather to celebrate a tenth wedding anniversary, four New York power couples experience a





severe attack of Farce! Experience the final production of the Notre Dame Theatre Department's 2025-2026 season.

Performances in the Blackbox Theatre will be:

Wednesday, May 13th (Preview) at 4:30 pm

Thursday, May 14th (Opening) at 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 16th at 7:00 pm

Sunday, May 17th (Closing) at 6:00 pm

Tickets will be on sale for \$15 on [GoFan](https://www.goFan.com) beginning Wednesday, May 6th, at 8 a.m.

More info: <https://www.ndhs.org/arts/theatre> | Follow us @ndhstheatreknights on Instagram.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Performing Arts Spring Concert



MAY 8

- 5:00 DANCE
- 5:30 THEATRE
- ▲ 6:00 CHOIR
- ★ 6:30 STRINGS
- 7:00 BAND



FREE ADMISSION

NEWS from NDTV PRODUCTIONS



24th Annual ND Optics Film Festival Highlights & Thank YOUs!

This year's 24th ND Optics Film Festival was incredible! We had three panels of industry professionals, including a Pitching Panel with executives Pilar Golden, Sabrina Park, Jeff Kuntz, & Noah Liebmiller, an alumni panel with Jack Shaw, Charlotte Oxley, Joe Kennedy, and Melissa Falchini, and an actor panel with



Wesley Kimmel, and of course, our annual Alumni Mixer! (See photo left)

Be sure to visit Film Freeway and follow the [ND Optics Film Festival](#) so it's on your radar to submit next year! The festival is free and open to all high school students.

If you would like to be a festival judge or guest speaker for our Media classes, email harkins@ndhs.org

NEWS from the CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE

Christian Service

Parents, please encourage your children, especially seniors, to make sure that their Christian Service goal year requirements have been met for their class. Parents of seniors who are deficient in hours will receive emailed notices soon! Please remember that service hours are a graduation requirement (please see the [Parent-Student Handbook](#) for more details; if you need a physical copy of the handbook, please email [Mr. Presley](mailto:Mr.Presley)). **Students who fail to meet the graduation requirement will not receive their diploma until the service hour requirement is met (usually completed in summer school).** Please see [Mr. Presley](mailto:Mr.Presley) if you have any questions or concerns.

Immersion*

Immersion is a retreat specifically geared for those in the junior class, which gives students an opportunity to better understand the Catholic missionary spirit of Blessed Father Moreau and the Congregation of Holy Cross through service (three full days). Please encourage your students to sign up. Please contact Mr. Presley if you have any immersion-related questions: presley@ndhs.org. Please encourage your children to sign up during the summer.

Here is a preview of all of the dates:

1. July 29th - 31st, 2026
2. September 23 - 25th, 2026
3. November 4th - 6th, 2026
4. December 21st - 23rd, 2026
5. January 27th - 29th, 2027
6. March 31st - April 2nd, 2027

*Students can earn service hours for all events. Remember, Immersion satisfies ALL of your junior service hour requirements. Please see [Mr. Presley](mailto:Mr.Presley) if you have questions, comments, or concerns. Don't miss out on this transformative, engaging, and hopeful experience--SIGN UP!!!

Kairos 2026-2027

Students in the Class of 2027 have signed up for their senior Kairos retreat, a 4-day retreat focusing on relationships with God, relationships with self, and relationships with others.

The dates for the 2025-2026 school year are:

- June 2-5, 2026 (full)
- June 23-26, 2026 (space available)



- July 21-24, 2026 (full)
- September 1-4, 2026 (full)
- **October 6-9, 2026 (space available)**
- January 19-22, 2027 (full)

If your rising senior child has not yet signed up, please email Ms. Morley at morley@ndhs.org for more information. If you are a rising senior parent and you have not yet turned in your information for the retreat, the deadline was April 1, and we are awaiting your information. Please contact Ms. Morley as soon as possible to turn in your information for the retreat.

Baccalaureate Mass



Prayer for the Month

As we enter the month of May, we turn in a special way to Mary, our patroness, whom we honor through the beautiful tradition of May Crowning. In the life of the Church, May is a time to recognize Mary as a model of faith, humility, and trust. For our families and community, she reminds us that holiness is lived in everyday moments through love, patience, and a willingness to say "yes" to God.

Loving and gracious God, we thank You for the gift of Mary, who shows us how to live with faith and courage. As we honor her this month, bless our families with peace, unity, and love. Help us to follow her example in our homes to listen with care, to support one another with patience, and to trust in Your presence in all things. May Mary, our Mother, guide our school community to be a place of welcome and belonging, where each person is known, valued, and loved. Through her example, may we continue to grow together in faith, hope, and compassion.

*Notre Dame, our Mother, pray for us.
St. Joseph, pray for us.*



NEWS from the ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Please click here for our [website](#) - this link is for any events and tours under the Admissions Office.

Current Families

Current families, please find the updated Bus Exception Dates for the remainder of the current school year: [NDHS 2025-2026 Bus Exception Dates 2nd Semester \(Click here\)](#)

NEWS from the TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

1:1 Program/iPads

Parents, please check your students' NDHS iPads to ensure that it is in good working order. We are doing checks here on campus, but would like your support in sending your students to the technology center to repair their broken devices. It is important that they do this now, as we will begin AP and Final exams soon. If you have any questions, please email technology.support@ndhs.org.

NEWS from the COUNSELING OFFICE

Mark your Calendars:

- **Friday, May 1:** Senior National College Decision Day
- **Monday, May 4 - Friday, May 15:** AP Exams
- **Wednesday, May 20:** Senior College Celebration Lunch and Group Photo (wear your college sweater or shirt)
- **May 28, 29, June 1, and 2:** College Essay Summer Workshop (must register in advance)

Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The counseling office will be working with our Bring Change 2 Mind Club to host a series of events this month to support the wellness of our students and break the stigma of mental health. We invite students to visit the therapy dogs before finals on **Monday, May 18**. Parents and caregivers can find mental health information and resources on the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) or Child Mind Institute websites. For more information: <https://www.nami.org/Home> and <https://childmind.org/>



2026 AP Exam Schedule

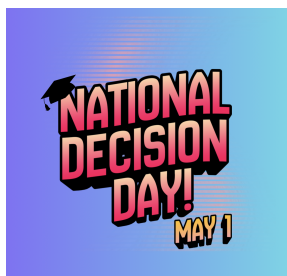
[Click here for the testing schedule for AP exams.](#) Each exam will have a different timing, and start times are absolute. End times will vary. There may be changes to the location, so double-check before your exam. **Late arrivals will not be allowed inside the testing room.** Anticipate an email in April with more testing instructions. Please email the AP Testing Coordinator (Mrs. Noemy Escobedo - escobedo@ndhs.org) if you have any questions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for the Class of 2026

Financial Aid: We encourage all seniors to submit their **FAFSA** as soon as possible if they have not already - the deadline is **March 2!** This is an essential step required to be eligible for federal financial aid from the government, including the Cal Grant, the Middle-Class Scholarship, Pell Grant, work-study, and loans if needed. Some colleges also require the FAFSA to be considered for merit scholarships. You lose nothing by submitting it, so be sure to apply here immediately, even if you plan to attend community college: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

All students are also strongly encouraged to reference the [resources and scholarships linked here](#).

Senior College Wrap-Up Meeting: All Seniors are encouraged to schedule a wrap-up meeting with their counselor before finals. This will be a chance to ensure all things are in order and offer support if needed before making your final college decision. Please schedule a time with [your counselor](#) via Calendly.



The **National College Decision Day** is **Friday, May 1**. You/your student must commit to and deposit to **one** college or university by this date. **It is imperative that you adhere to the school's deadline and deposit on time or risk losing your student's offer.** Be sure to read all communication carefully.

Decisions: Please be sure to update **all** of your college decisions (accepted, denied, deferred, waitlist, etc.) in Scoir as you receive them. **You will not receive your diploma if your [Scoir account](#) is not updated.**

Selective Service System: A reminder that under the current law, the Selective Service System requires all male US citizens between 18 and 25 years of age, born after January 1, 1960, to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. In addition, non-US citizen men between the ages of 18 and 25 (inclusive) living in the United States must register. To register, young men only need to go to www.sss.gov. Hover over the word "Registration", select "Register Now" from the drop-down menu, then complete the form. Your registration number will be emailed to you within minutes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for the Class of 2027

[Scoir College Exploration System](#) for 10th-11th Graders

We encourage students to make use of the Scoir College Exploration System. Sophomores and juniors should take every opportunity to acquaint themselves with the extensive Scoir resources that are available, including career exploration tools and college choice management tools.

College Essay Summer Workshop

Join your college counselors for an **IN-PERSON** workshop focusing on the college application essays. Students who attend will have the opportunity to brainstorm, write, and edit their essays while receiving immediate feedback from counselors. More details to come - for now, mark your calendars for **May 28, 29, June 1, and 2**. This is a 4-day workshop; participants are expected to attend each day.



[CLICK HERE FOR SAT & ACT STANDARDIZED TESTING INFORMATION](#)

NEWS from the IRISH KNIGHT BAND

IKB Performances

May 3rd and May 8th

The band will perform at the Hall of Crucifixion, Forest Lawn Glendale, on Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00 pm. This concert features four band pieces and our end-of-year awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding work of the band students during the school year.

On Friday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m., the Irish Knight Band will perform as part of the Fine Arts Department Concert. We will also have performances by our Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble. This concert will also include a special band piece only performed at this event and not at the above-mentioned concert on May 3rd.

Graduation Lei & Mug Sales

If you would like to order a traditional double orchid lei or a cobalt blue/22k metallic gold-trimmed mug with the names of all the graduates from the Class of 2026, please **place your order by May 11th** online at

<https://ndhs.myschoolapp.com/page/online-registration?siteId=1332&ssl=1®ister=48065>

The deadline is very important to our success and yours!

On the day of graduation, the Band Booster Club will be selling graduation balloons, flowers, and gifts on campus. We hope that you will support the band by not buying from outside street vendors. Congratulations to all the graduates, and thank you for your generous support of the Irish Knight Band.

If you have any questions, please contact Co-Director, Mr. Pagnotta at pagnotta@ndhs.org or Co-Director, Lilian Diaz at diaz@ndhs.org.

NEWS from the ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Men's Basketball

NaVarro Bowman - State Junior Player of the Year

Knights in the Playoffs

Baseball, softball, track and field, and men's golf are still finishing up their seasons and will know if they have made CIF Playoffs at the conclusion of their respective seasons.



Men's Tennis

Notre Dame put up a strong showing at the Mission League Tournament, having one doubles team and one singles player advance to the second day of play.

Women's Beach Volleyball

The women's beach volleyball team is back-to-back Mission League Champions. The Knights made the CIF-SS Division 3 Playoffs, making it to the quarter finals.

Men's Lacrosse

The men's lacrosse team is set for the first round of the Division 2 CIF-SS Playoffs on April 29 versus San Juan Hills. The Knights put together a 12-5 season.

Women's Lacrosse

After going 13-4-1, the women's lacrosse team is set for the first round of playoffs versus Canyon High School.

Swimming

The Notre Dame swim team put up a strong showing at the Mission League prelims and Mission League finals.

Athletic Boosters Club & Meeting

The final Athletic Booster meeting of the year will be on May 13, 2026, at 6:00 in the cafeteria. Food will be provided.

Spring Signees

Congratulations to our 2026 spring signees! Notre Dame had 16 spring athletes who signed this spring to play their sport at the collegiate level, totaling 33 on the year.

Baseball	Football	Softball	Track and Field	Women's Soccer
Juju Diaz Jones - University of California, Berkeley	Michael Baldwin - Washington University - St. Louis	Nadia Ledon - Loyola Marymount University	Joshua Harel - USC	Corinne Rodriguez - Coastal Carolina University
Holden Newhouse - Loyola Marymount University	Wyatt Brown - West Virginia University	Aliyah Garcia - Oklahoma State University	Beckham Borquez - USC	Jenessa Da Silva - Saint Mary's College of California
Peter Jackson - University of California, Santa Barbara	Isaiah Senseabaugh - Northern Arizona University	Ellayne Tellez - Longwood University	Taylor Martinez - UCSB	Zara Edler - Emory University
Jacob Madrid - University of Oregon	Luc Weaver - University of Southern California	Charley Tapia - Occidental College	Jordan Peck - Greenville University - Illinois	
Malakye Matsumoto - United States Air Force	Lucky Springer - Grove City College			



Academy				
Lachlan Clark - Long Beach State				
Derek Yang - La Verne				
Cross Country	Men's Golf	Men's Basketball	Men's Soccer	Men's Lacrosse
Noah Escobedo - University of Puget Sound	Luke Scott - Southwestern University - Texas	Zack White - San Diego State University	Dan Katsanovich - Grinnell College	Sebastain Silva - Clarke University
Swim	Women's Golf	Women's Basketball	Tennis	Women's Lacrosse
Kaitlyn Mero - Seattle University	Caris Lee - Wellesley College	Emily Abramovtich - Haverford College	Alexandra Wolf - University of Southern California	Nico McCullough - Caldwell University

CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

MAY 2026

Mental Health Awareness Month

May 1 Coffee House

May 4 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 11 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

May 14 Spring Play Opening Day

May 20 Senior Honors Night

(Parents, do not plan vacations during finals!)

May 22 Final Exams-required

(Periods 1 & 2)

May 25 Memorial Day - No School

May 26 Final Exams - required

(Periods 3 & 4)

May 27 Final Exams - required

(Periods 5 & 6)

May 28 Final Exams

(Period 7) - required

May 29 Baccalaureate Mass

May 30 Graduation



NOTRE DAME
HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026
