



Notre Dame Belmont

Dear Prospective Families,

We invite you to Notre Dame with the hope that you will discover the depth of opportunity that exists in all that we are. We venture into the educational experience as partners!

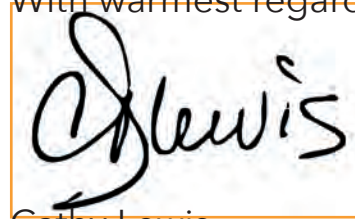
I begin by saying how proud I am to showcase the creativity of our students, as seen in the student photography in this book. Our students are amazing and impress us everyday with their insights, creativity, and humor.

You may tour Notre Dame and observe the surface level of what constitutes a school. Contained within this book is a glimpse at the depth that we offer, and even that only scratches the surface, because the human experience is an ever-evolving and miraculous process, growing deeper through every experience.

Please allow this book to begin a conversation, an inquiry, an exploration of what it means to be a Notre Dame Tiger; a student who feels safe to take academic risks, to try new avenues of creative expression, and to delve into a more authentic articulation of herself.

Together we welcome you to all that is Notre Dame Belmont!

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Lewis". The signature is enclosed in a thin orange rectangular border.

Cathy Lewis

Director of Admissions on behalf of the Notre Dame Community



We are Notre Dame



I am empowered

By choosing Notre Dame Belmont, you will join a community that educates the whole person, empowering each student to become her most authentic self in body, mind, and spirit.

Notre Dame is a school with a mission and a value-centered education.

Notre Dame's mission is to educate young women, teaching them what they need to know for life, to be successful in careers only yet imagined, and to live a life of impact and purpose.

Notre Dame students are inclusive.

Every student is known and loved. Students develop sisterhood bonds that last a lifetime. Within an all-girls setting, students are free to focus on themselves and their quality relationships with others.

Notre Dame ensures high academic standards.

NDB nurtures intellectual curiosity, stimulates personal growth, and encourages critical thinking.

Notre Dame has small classes and individual attention.

NDB has a low student-teacher ratio that promotes close connections with students.

Notre Dame boasts excellent teachers.

Teachers engage in their areas of expertise and are passionate about what they do. With more autonomy within the classroom, teachers are able to develop a full understanding of how each student learns and what motivates each individually.

Notre Dame educates the whole person.

NDB nurtures not just students' intellectual ability and curiosity, but also their personal, social, and spiritual growth. Opportunities extend well beyond the classroom to include athletic teamwork and competitions, artistic expression, spiritual growth, and school leadership.

Notre Dame is a community of parents who actively participate.

Notre Dame's parent community shares the same values of a quality education for their daughters. Parents are encouraged to participate in the life of the school as we all work toward the same goals for each student.

I am a sister

Solid Evidence of the Benefits of Girls' schools

A recent study by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute confirmed what we have known for 167 years: girls do better in an all-girls environment! The study assessed the self-confidence, achievement, political engagement, and aspirations of over 20,000 college women and used sophisticated analysis to separate single-gender education from other influences. The documentation reveals that graduates from girls' schools have a statistically significant advantage over their peers from co-ed schools, and that is the story that Notre Dame graduates exemplify!

Mathematics and Computer Skills:

Girls' schools encourage students in Math, Science, and Technology.

Girls' schools provide practical skills such as financial literacy.

10% higher confidence overall

47.7% feel well-prepared for college-level Math (compared to 36% from co-ed)

3x more likely to pursue a career in Engineering (than those from co-ed)

Academic Performance:

Girls' schools create more opportunities for educational risk-taking and intellectual curiosity.

80% feel highly successful

70% report intellectual self-confidence

72% consider college a step toward graduate studies

Communication Skills:

45% rate Public Speaking skills as high

65% report Writing Skills as high

58% consider themselves politically educated

Leadership:

In a girls' school, every student leader is female with many female role models. The Valedictorian is female.

Students are not waiting for a male student to take the lead. They step up!

Girls' schools promote female athletics, leadership, and accomplishment.

Girls' schools counter the negative influence of mass media.

Girls' school students are more inclusive and supportive of each other.

Girls' school teaching maximizes the strength of how females learn best.



I am alive in God

The Hallmarks of the Notre Dame Sisterhood and Learning Community are a living expression of who we are. We often refer to "The Hallmarks" that were developed by the worldwide network of Notre Dame that includes 122 schools on 5 continents.

We believe that God is a lived experience that each of us embody. We are a Catholic school and believe in the holiness and wholeness of each person. With 58% of the students being Catholic, 42% represent virtually every other faith tradition. By studying all the World Religions, our students embody acceptance, open-mindedness, respect, social awareness, and intellectual curiosity.

The Hallmarks of a Notre Dame Learning Community

We proclaim by our lives even more than by our words that God is good.

*We show God's goodness through our words and our actions.

We honor the dignity and sacredness of each person.

*We respect each other and treat our community the way we want to be treated.

We educate for and act on behalf of justice and peace in the world.

*We work for peace and justice in everything we do.

We commit ourselves to community service.

*We freely give back to our community through service to others.

We embrace the gift of diversity.

*Notre Dame is accepting and loving to all.

We create community among those with whom we work and with those we serve.

*No matter where we are, we are sisters.

We develop holistic learning communities that educate for life.

*We learn in an environment where we are able to be ourselves and to express ourselves authentically.

*The Hallmarks as interpreted by the the students





I am a scholar

At the heart of NDB's Mission is our commitment to educate the whole person: Academically, Spiritually, and Physically. We believe that when a young woman's entire being is engaged, she will grow into a thoughtful and empowered person.

Academically:

Design Thinking: Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype, Test
Our faculty is trained at the Stanford d.school
to develop intellectual curiosity, initiative, and resilience in every student.
Design Thinking includes: critical thinking, creative thinking,
multi-disciplinary collaboration, teamwork
19 AP Courses
13 Honors Courses
Robotics
18 Co-ed Course Opportunities
31 Visual and Performing Arts Courses
240 credits required for graduation

Spiritually:

Faith-based values
Personal faith development
Character development
Health and Wellness
Leadership
Peace and Social Justice work
Community Service
Community participation
Kairos and Class Retreats
Liturgies and prayer services

Physically:

Physical Education and Yoga
Weight Training
14 Athletic Teams
Health and Wellness
Epicurean food service - organic and locally-sourced

I am an artist

Every creative endeavor expands the mind!

The Visual and Performing Arts Department provides many opportunities for self-expression and creativity, further enhancing right and left brain development.

Various skills are taught in each discipline to nurture creative outcome.

An appreciation for respective disciplines is promoted along with critical analyses for aesthetic outcomes. The Art Gallery, as well as many walls of Notre Dame, display student art throughout the year. Notre Dame's VPA has an award-winning track record, including two international Gold Key Scholastic Art & Writing Award winners.

Visual Arts

Art I, Art II, Art III, Art IV Honors, AP 2-D and AP Drawing Studio Art Portfolios

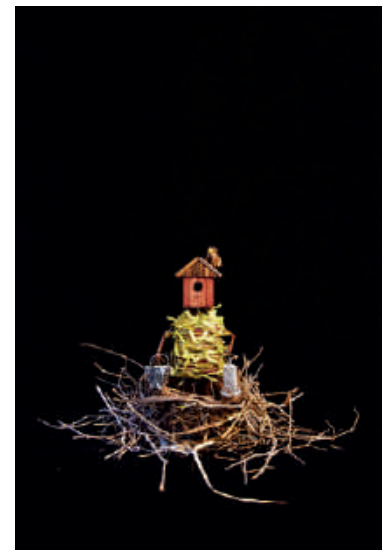
Sculpture I, Sculpture II, Sculpture III, Sculpture IV Honors, AP 3-D Portfolio

Photography I, Photography II, Photography III,
Photography IV Honors, AP 2-D Photography

Film and Video Production

Graphic Design I and II

AP Art History







I am a performer

We believe that art has the potential to expand and transform every student in miraculous ways. Some students come to us with skills already developed and are given opportunities to lead and teach others.

Some student arrive, feeling as though they are not creative, only to find an opportunity to unleash a force they had only imagined!

Our Dance program encompasses 5 levels:

Dance I, Dance II, Dance III, Dance IV Honors

Dance V is our InStep Dance Company whose members are chosen by audition and is designed for students who study dance outside of school.

Auditions are held every May for the following year.

As a member of InStep, dancers are also eligible to participate in our competitive Pom Dance Team.

Our Music Program includes:

Chorus I, Chorus II, Chorus III, Chorus IV Honors

Orchestra - NDB (includes students from Serra High School)

Advanced Band - Serra High School

Jazz Band - Serra High School

Students who participate in our music program are eligible to audition for the Tri-M Music Honorary.

Our Theater Program includes:

Drama Classes - Serra High School

Fall Play - Serra High School

Spring Musical - Serra High School

Many students participate in the theater program behind the scenes as part of Set Design, Costumes, Props, Make-up, Stage Crew, and all that makes up the wonder of a theatrical performance.

I am an athlete

Notre Dame Athletics is an integral component of our comprehensive educational experience and serves as a vehicle for teaching our young women many life skills that can be difficult to master in a classroom setting. Our goal is for each NDB Tiger to learn, grow, compete and have fun!

Notre Dame Athletic skills include:

- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Accountability
- Leadership
- Discipline and Self-Control
- Perseverance
- Competitiveness
- Healthy practices
- Responsibility
- Setting and Achieving Goals
- Winning and Losing with Grace
- Dealing with Disappointment (Resilience)

Notre Dame Athletics has 14 sports with most on the NDB campus including:

Year Round: Cheer and Pom Dance Team (NDB Dance Studio)

Fall Season:

- Cross-Country
- Golf (local courses)
- Tennis (NDB Courts and CSM Courts)
- Volleyball (NDB Moore Pavilion)
- Water Polo (Serra Aquatic Center)

Winter Season:

- Basketball (NDB Moore Pavilion)
- Soccer (NDNU Koret Field)

Spring Season:

- Lacrosse (NDNU Koret Field)
- Sand Volleyball (NDB Sand Courts)
- Softball (NDB Field)
- Swimming (Serra Aquatic Center)
- Track & Field (Serra Track)





I am a leader

Leadership is an important skill that is developed in our students. Our world is in need of positive, articulate, confident leaders, and that is part of our mission in educating and preparing young women.

Developing leadership skills takes place in the classroom, on the athletic field, on the stage, creating a Robot, beginning a club, organizing an event, participating in student government, leading a prayer service, welcoming new students to Notre Dame, and so many other opportunities. The key is to take risks, to try new skills knowing that failure can be the greatest teacher of all. Student leaders have the opportunity to find their passion, work together collaboratively, and to plan events that benefit the entire school community. The goal is to develop confidence and to cultivate leadership skills that last a lifetime.

Over 185 members of the student body hold a leadership position on:

Student Council
California Scholarship Federation
National Honor Society
Tri-M Music Honorary
Athletic Team Captains
Tigerbots Robotics Team
Ambassador Leadership Board
Health and Wellness Board
Campus Ministry Board
Technology Liaison Board
Link Crew Welcoming Board
Club Presidents

There is something for everyone. We begin the new Freshman Class with their own Student Council elections in September. There are seven Class Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Historian, Athletics, Activities, and Spirit Commissioner. Additionally, there are 2 Homeroom Presidents per homeroom that manage the business of the day.

We have a Club Faire where students are free to explore and join the various clubs. If there is a club that is not currently in action, students simply find an adult mentor, write a mission statement, and create a club of their own.

Many clubs have begun as a young leader's vision!

There is something for everyone; you simply step into the idea you have for yourself.

I am healthy and well

Health is a state of body. Wellness is a state of being.

We believe that there is a significant link between emotional and physical wellness, and that character development and wellness work in tandem with each other. We also conduct a monthly parent education forum based on current books that address the main issues facing teens.

Freshman Year (Spiritual Life theme: Loving Yourself)

- Caring for your most vulnerable self
- Open-mindedness in creating new friendships
- Being responsible
- Taking the initiative with teachers
- Creating boundaries with social media
- Managing Stress

Sophomore Year (Spiritual Life theme: Loving God)

- Practicing self-control
- Developing resilience
- Learning to forgive
- Gaining independence (driver's permit, first job, finances)
- Evaluating healthy friendships and relationships
- Taking God on a personal journey

Junior Year (Spiritual Life theme: Loving your Neighbor)

- Recognizing unhealthy relationships
- Enforcing healthy boundaries
- Cultivating deeper relationships
- Keeping social media in perspective
- Reinforcing consistent healthy habits
- Increasing social awareness

Senior Year (Spiritual Life theme: Loving the World)

- Strengthening resilience and coping strategies
- Practicing self-compassion and dealing with the inner critic
- Practicing forgiveness with self and others
- Managing the first year in college
- Life Skills (finances, car maintenance, practical skills)
- Reinforcing healthy habits away from home





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I am spirited

Aquacades

Notre Dame Belmont has a strong history of sisterhood and tradition! Students experience our unique spirit through Aquacades, a spirit tradition that dates back to the 1940's, encompassing swim, dance, Cheer routines, loud music, and cheering that raises the roof off the building each year!

Aquacades, unique to Notre Dame Belmont, elicits a spirit of sisterhood, not only among the current students, but also among our alumnae who return to judge the spirit competition. With our alumnae returning each year, this is our version of Homecoming!

Class Spirit

Each class has their own class color and mascot, furthering the bond with each other. The Freshmen and Juniors are sister classes, and the Sophomores and Seniors are sister classes, engaging in spirited competitions throughout the year. Spirit is evident everyday just being in the halls of Notre Dame!

Dances

Casual co-ed dances are held on several Friday evenings throughout the year, with a theme chosen by the Student Council, often featuring a live band. Notre Dame is the place to be!

Notre Dame also holds a Winter Formal open to all grade levels and their guests, plus a memorable Prom for Juniors and Seniors, and their guests. Our students are also very busy attending dances and Proms that other schools sponsor.

Rallies and Assemblies

Spirit rallies are held several times during the school year to honor sports teams, to recognize student achievement, or to simply celebrate school spirit! The Halloween Rally kicks off Spirit Week with dress-up days, a costume contest, and a pumpkin carving contest. "Awareness Raising" assemblies are also held periodically, including topics that encompass mental health, leadership, digital citizenship, and self-esteem.

I am a volunteer

Notre Dame fosters social awareness and caring for the least among us by requiring community service and volunteer work, anchored in the Spiritual Life curriculum. Our students develop a lifelong desire to serve the communities in which they live, and to those who benefit from their time and attention. Vocational insight is gained through written reflections.

Freshman year:

Second semester: Each student will complete 10 hours serving with family members, or a small group, at a non-profit organization. Students are encouraged to volunteer at NDB by helping teachers, admissions, athletics, or by participating in any NDB sponsored service events. (20 hours over 4 years)

Sophomore year:

First semester: 10 hours serving at a local church (of any denomination) or non-profit organization.
Second semester: 10 Vocational hours, volunteering at a non-profit organization, working directly with people in need, and exploring one's passion and vocation through a written reflection.

Junior year:

First semester: 10 Vocational hours
Second semester: 10 Vocational hours

Senior year:

First semester: 10 Vocational hours
Second semester: Each Senior will create a reflective presentation that focuses on her experience and service throughout her time at NDB.

Graduation requirement: 80 hours of community work in 4 years (prorated for transfer students)





I am ready for the world

“Ready for the world” summarizes the mission of Notre Dame Belmont.

St. Julie Billiart, the foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, embodied the mission of educating young women and teaching them what they needed to know for life. She witnessed that educated women were the force behind positive change in society, most particularly in poor communities. In 1851, at the founding of Notre Dame in California, the skills required were very different.

The core values, however, remain the same.

Our comprehensive curriculum encompasses the development of the following character skills:

Initiative
Intellectual Curiosity
Open-Mindedness
Resilience
Responsibility
Self-Control
Social Awareness
Teamwork

We work to educate the Social Brain. By doing so, our students are more engaged. Students want to learn, but they want to learn about their social world even more.

Notre Dame works to engage the social mind, while helping to establish boundaries on social media.

In our community, a sense of belonging leads to increased academic achievement, primarily because students feel safe to express themselves. A focus on the “why” enhances retention in all subjects, creating a clearer path to creativity and collaboration. As social beings, students learn to work collaboratively, and engage regularly in Design Thinking.

Notre Dame Belmont is preparing young women for careers not yet imagined because success comes from an ability to take the initiative, practice intellectual curiosity, remain open-minded to new information, be resilient in the face of failure, take responsibility for one’s actions, regularly practice self-control, be socially aware of not only oneself, but of others, and to engage in teamwork.

As social beings who are wired to connect with others, our world needs more thoughtful collaboration and communication.

That is our mission at Notre Dame, ensuring our students are ready for the world!



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