

Frequently Asked Questions Notre Dame Elementary School 2016-2017

- **Who are the Sisters of Notre Dame?**

In 1849, two young teachers in Coesfeld, Germany began providing a home where neglected children could be loved and cared for while they attended school. Hilligonde Wolbring as Sister Maria Aloysia, and Elizabeth Kuhling as Sister Maria Ignatia began their novitiate On October 1, 1850, and the Sisters of Notre Dame of Coesfeld were founded.

Since its founding, the Congregation has grown to its present membership of 2000 sisters ministering worldwide in nineteen countries, 700 of whom serve in the United States. Notre Dame Education Center is one of the four provincial centers in the United States. By 2020, all four provinces will be one USA province.

- **Explain the term “sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame.”**

The sponsorship of a particular apostolate or ministry is a formal relationship between a recognized Catholic organization (The Sisters of Notre Dame) and a legally formed entity (NDES) entered into for the sake of promoting and sustaining the mission of the Church. Sisters of Notre Dame are responsible for ensuring the school’s fidelity to its Catholic identity and to the educational vision and principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Their role is one of influence, not governance.

- **Who is the governing body for Notre Dame Schools?**

The Board of Members and the Notre Dame Schools Board of Directors presently serve as the governing body for NDCL and NDES. Five persons constitute the Board of Members. On July 1, 2015 a new board, The Notre Dame Schools Board assumed governing powers replacing the two singular boards that had been previously in place. The Board numbers 24 members, three of whom are Sisters of Notre Dame. The Board Chair is Lynne Ernes. The current board members are alumni of Notre Dame Academy, Cathedral Latin School, NDES and NDCL, current and former parents and other professionals from the business community with expertise in specific areas relative to the board’s areas of responsibility. The Board of Directors hire the President of Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School.

- **Why did NDES implement the president-principal model?**

Recognizing the need for a stronger leadership model as the challenges of school growth became more complex, NDES implemented this model of leadership in July, 2015. Seventy percent of all private schools or those sponsored by a religious congregation (such as NDES) have this leadership model in place. This nationwide trend is increasing due to the complexities and challenges of Catholic school administration, marketing, and fundraising.

The president’s primary areas of responsibility include NDES’s Catholic identity and mission, the implementation of the educational vision and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Board leadership, strategic planning, fiscal management, alumni affairs, marketing and admissions, public representation, fundraising and all advancement efforts.

The principal is responsible for academic and student affairs, student services, certain aspects of admissions, religious ministry, technology, the teaching faculty and support staff. The athletic director and moderators of all extracurricular activities report to the principal.

- **Name significant events in the history of the school:**

- 1957 Notre Dame Elementary opens at Shamrock Acres (SND property) with kindergarten in Chardon, Ohio.
- 1958 Provincial Center begins construction and Notre Dame Elementary School adds a 1st grade at Shamrock Acres in Chardon.
- 1959 Notre Dame Elementary School adds a 2nd grade and 3rd grade at Shamrock Acres. NDES moves Kindergarten to Marydale (SND property) in Chardon, Ohio.
- 1964 Notre Dame Elementary School - K-4 moves to portables (SND property) and expands to 8th grade.
- 1968 Notre Dame Elementary School moves into the ground floor at NDES (current building)
- 1970 Notre Dame Montessori opens its doors to children ages 3-5 at Shamrock Acres.
- 1971 After aspirant class closes, NDES moves to two classes per grade level.
- 1972 Notre Dame Elementary School grows and expands to 2 floors in the Educational Center.
- 1975 Notre Dame Montessori includes children preschool through 2nd grade.
- 1976 Notre Dame Elementary School adds a dining room and gymnasium.
- 1982 Notre Dame Elementary School celebrates its 25th anniversary year.
- 1985 Notre Dame Montessori includes children preschool through 1st grade (2nd grade became part of the elementary school).
- 1995 21st century strategic planning begins: adding full time music, art, Spanish and enrichment classes.
- 2000 Notre Dame Montessori closes and Notre Dame Preschool opens as a traditional preschool.
- 2007 Notre Dame Elementary School celebrates its 50th anniversary year.
- 2008 Notre Dame Elementary School appoints its first lay principal.
- 2009 Notre Dame Elementary School becomes a SND Sponsored School with its first Board of Directors.
- 2009 STEM and Challenge programs are added to the regular educational program.
- 2014 Notre Dame Elementary School recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.
- 2015 Notre Dame Elementary School receives the Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education by the Ohio Academy of Science

- **What is the make-up of the faculty and staff at NDES:**

- President – 1 (SND)
- Administrators – 2
- Religious Coordinator – 1 (SND)
- School Psychologist – 1
- Speech Therapist – 3
- School Nurse - 1
- Instructional Staff – 38 (2 are SND)
- Support Staff – 33 (7 are SND)
- Sisters of Notre Dame – 11 (these Sisters are also included in the numbers above)

- **What is the scope of NDES's extra-curricular programs?**

Students participate in a wide range of clubs from Drama, Dance, Chess, Cooking, Science Olympiad, Power of the Pen, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, Nature, Fitness, Lacrosse, Golf, Art, Recorder and Handbells. Students are also involved in Student Council and CYO Sports and have the opportunity to qualify for regional and state math and science competitions.

- **What are a few significant statistics about NDES in 2016-17?**
 - 74 children attend Notre Dame Elementary Preschool 3years old – 5 years old
 - 513 children attend Notre Dame Elementary School K-8
 - Approximately 90% of graduates of NDES attend NDCL
 - 86% Catholic
 - Average Class Size: 22 - 24
 - Outreach programs, service learning opportunities and extracurricular clubs
 - Summer tutoring program and summer preschool camps
- **Enrollment by County:**
 - 64% Geauga
 - 29% Lake
 - 5% Cuyahoga
 - 2% Ashtabula, Portage, Summit, Trumbull
- **Diversity: 5%**

This includes students who are African -American, Asian, Multi – Racial, Hispanic, and Native American.
- **Financial Assistance Programs**

Need-based awards

 - 15% receive need-based tuition assistance.
 - Awards are based on the FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment online application and the admissions application submitted by the family.
 - Ed Choice, tuition grants from the State of Ohio are available to students residing in underperforming school districts.
 - Jon Peterson, students apply for the scholarship if they have a current Speech or Learning Disability IEP. The scholarships cover the cost of services and in some cases can be applied towards tuition assistance.
- **How does the legacy live on at NDES?**
 - 15% of NDES students are from Legacy Families. They included children/grandchildren of Notre Dame Elementary School.

For additional information, visit notredameelementary.org.

Sister Jacquelyn GUSDANE, SND, NDS President

As President of Notre Dame Schools, Sister Jacquelyn GUSDANE, SND serves as the chief executive officer for Notre Dame Elementary School and for Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School. The two schools, while separately incorporated and independent of one another, are governed by one Board, the Notre Dame Schools Board. In July, 2017, she will entrust Notre Dame Schools to a new leader.

With a background that is extensive and seasoned, Sister Jacquelyn brings with her administrative, educational, and theological experience. These include: Notre Dame Academy (Chardon), John F. Kennedy (Warren), Elyria Catholic, and Regina High School. Sister Jacquelyn has also served in administrative capacities in Diocesan Office of Raleigh, NC, the Pastoral Theology Center at Notre Dame College, the former St. Joseph Christian Life Center in Cleveland as well as the Leadership Team of the Chardon Province of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Sister Jacquelyn earned her B.A. degree from Notre Dame College and graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota and John Carroll University. She completed certificates in secondary educational administration and supervision from John Carroll University and in spiritual direction from Creighton University. A Doctor of Ministry was awarded to her from the Graduate Theological Foundation.

In her various ministerial roles, Sr. Jacquelyn has had the blessing of traveling with educational and religious groups to learn and share in the life and culture of several European countries, Brazil, India, China, Israel, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. In 2009 with Mr. Joseph Waler, she was chosen by the College Board to travel to China with 30 educators to explore possibilities at NDCL for Chinese language and culture. In 2010 she was selected by Fulbright Japan to participate in an exchange program of American and Japanese educators focusing on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Sister Jacquelyn has also had extensive opportunities to serve on Advisory and Governing Boards for non-profits.

Sister Jacquelyn possesses an intense commitment to the mission of Notre Dame Schools. She views her roles of service, networking, education and travel opportunities as invaluable assets. All have augmented, enriched, and deepened her call to advance the mission of Notre Dame Schools rooted in the educational vision and principles of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Barbara Doering, NDES Principal

This year marks Barbara Doering's 33rd year of service to Catholic elementary education.

She is a 1980 graduate of Notre Dame Academy and received by B. A. in Elementary Education in 1984 from Notre Dame College. Barbara continued to pursue a M.A. in Administration and Advanced Graduate Studies in Educational Administration and Supervision through both Lake Erie College and Ursuline College. She has served as a teacher in the Diocese of Cleveland for 22 years and is in her 11th year as principal.

As a recipient of the "Excellence in Education" award, Barbara's mission has been to be an educational leader who promotes the spiritual development and success of every student. Establishing a strong foundation in a positive and progressive learning environment, building trust and collaborating as a professional with staff members, families and the community are all an important part of her vision for excellence.

Barbara's current position as principal of Notre Dame Elementary School for the past 8 years is especially important to her because of the significant role the Sisters of Notre Dame have played in her life. As the first lay principal of NDES, it has been her honor to carry on their rich traditions and values.

This year Barbara and her husband Don celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Don serves as the Post Master in Chardon. Their daughters, Elaina and Elyce, are both graduates of NDCL. Elaina is also a graduate of Walsh University and Elyce a graduate of the University of Findlay. Barbara and Don reside in Chardon where they enjoy the tranquility of nature and spending time with their family, especially granddaughter Lily.