

# The Notre Dame Times

Notre Dame Academy · Spring 2024 · Issue 2

## WHAT'S BUZZIN' WITH MR. B

BY: Sean Ryan

**Q: What is your name and what subject do you teach?**

**A:** Mr. Bartosik and I teach 6th-8th Grade Math and Title I Math.

**Q: What got you into teaching?**

**A:** During my senior year at Canisius High School, rather than going to school on Mondays the last semester of the year, we would work in the community. I ended up working in my aunt's 1st grade classroom at the time, Highgate Heights, School # 80 and really enjoyed working with students. I have many younger cousins, so I would spend a lot of time with them teaching them sports, which I enjoyed.

**Q: Where did you go to college?**

**A:** St. John Fisher University

**Q: Where are you from?**

**A:** I grew up in South Buffalo and attended St. Ambrose, which is where the Okell Campus currently is.

**Q: What are your opinions on Mr. Stevens?**

**A:** I would rather not say...

**Q: Are you and Mr. Stevens actually enemies?**

**A:** You know what they say.... "Keep your friends close, and your enemies closer." But in all seriousness, Mr. Stevens is an invaluable part of Notre Dame Academy. He is always positive with his students, he really enjoys bringing his world experiences into the classroom, and always supports his students. Mr. Stevens is very dedicated in coaching: soccer, basketball, and helping with track.

**Q: What are your opinions on Mrs. M as Mrs. Hannagan in our upcoming school musical?**

**A:** I think she would be a perfect fit for the role! If Notre Dame Academy ever puts on "Matilda," Miss Trunchbull would be ideal for her. (Take note, Mrs. Lackie)

**Q: What is your favorite TV show of all time and why?**

**A:** Seinfeld - There are so many parallels to that show and daily occurrences, even in today's world. Plus when the students do not do their homework, I can always yell "SERENITY NOW!"

**Q: What is your favorite snack of all time?**

**A:** Nachos with Cheese and Jalapenos

*I hope this article has helped you learn a little more about your friendly neighborhood math teacher.*



# SWIFT ANNOUNCES NEW ALBUM; LET THE COUNTDOWN BEGIN

BY: Addison Cusack

Recently at the Grammys, Taylor Swift announced her new album called The Tortured Poets Department. While Taylor was at the Grammys, she received two awards: Best Pop Album and Best Pop Vocal Album. She actually made history by winning four albums of the year. When she won her first award of the night, Taylor Swift announced her new album. The next day after the Grammys, she released the entire song list. Many Swifties speculate that it is a breakup album from when she broke up with Joe Alywn. This new album comes out April 19th, and many Swifties (including

me!) are counting down the days. Taylor says The Tortured Poets Department will be a synth pop album, and this excites many fans around the world.

If you are a Swiftie like me, then you must be very excited for this new album. If you've looked on Mrs.Grew's board recently, then you would have realized that there is a countdown for Taylor's new album that I have created. I'm so excited because I have practically worn out Midnights album, and I'm ready for what's next. Taylor Swift is amazing and I can't wait to see what the new album has to bring!

## ZIPPIDY DO DA, ZIPPITY DE, MS. ZIPPIER IS ON HER WAY

BY: Addison Cusack

**Addison Cusack: What was the Taylor Swift concert like?**

**Ms. Zippier:** It was an immersive experience. It was very interactive. It was displayed like she had never seen before.

**Addison Cusack: What is your favorite hobby?**

**Ms. Zippier:** My favorite hobbies are reading and yoga.

**Addison Cusack: Where are your favorite places to go?**

**Ms. Zippier:** My favorite places to go are Disney, New York City, and North Myrtle beach.

**Addison Cusack: What is your favorite food?**

**Ms. Zippier:** My favorite food is pizza.

**Addison Cusack: Did you do anything before teaching?**

**Ms. Zippier:** I was a nurse before teaching!

**Addison Cusack: What made you go into the teaching field?**

**Ms. Zippier:** I felt like God was telling her to take the job at this school. I felt that what I had been doing wasn't my big dream. It was a big scary change but it was all worth it in the end.

**Addison Cusack: What made you want to teach at NDA?**

**Ms. Zippier:** My girls go here. Also, I love the NDA community and the family feel of the school. I also graduated from Saint Martin's.

**Addison Cusack: What is it like being a mom of two?**

**Ms. Zippier:** It is a crazy, fun-filled adventure and is the most rewarding job ever. My girls bring a smile to my face every day.

# CATS VS. DOGS: WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

A Personal Opinion Column By: Connor Prendergast

The eternal debate: Cats vs. Dogs. Honestly I'm not really sure why people still pursue this topic because, to me, the answer is pretty obvious: dogs are clearly superior. Let's start with the facts: dogs are more energetic and fun loving. You don't take your cat out for a walk; it's just kinda there. If you look at cat toys there are two things: lasers and feathers on sticks. Dogs are also so much more fun to play with; the only thing you can really do with a cat is point a laser at stuff, while with a dog you can throw a ball or play tug-of-war, or have them chew on a bone or stick. People like to say that "Oh it's so convenient, they go to the bathroom in a litter box." But have they ever owned a dog? NO! Even if they did, did they train them properly? NO!

Another way that dogs are better than cats in my opinion: they are more affectionate to their humans. Cats barely give their humans the time of day. On the other hand, my dog gave me kisses for an entire minute after I got home from a summer camp. Cats just sit there and look at you disapprovingly, whereas dogs like walking around the house, maybe finding a nice spot in the sun to lay down. Cats just want

to make things more difficult for you. For example, they knock things down, make you feed them, and what do you get for it? Nothing! With dogs however, you get to play with them, walk with them, and you get that warm, fuzzy feeling of being loved. Let's move on to famous dogs and cats in pop culture. For dogs, you have Lady and the Tramp, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Scooby Doo, and Snoopy. The list goes on and on; there are many great dogs through the ages. For cats there's Garfield, Hello Kitty, Puss in Boots, and that one cat from Hocus Pocus. You might say that that's a pretty good number, but Hello Kitty is just a glorified logo, the one from Hocus Pocus I don't even remember their name, and Garfield is.... well, he's Garfield. Puss in Boots had some good movies I must say though. In conclusion, dogs are far superior to cats in nearly every way, so let's review the reasons real quick. Firstly, they're more energetic and will play with you more. Second, they love you more, they give you kisses and everything. Third, there are more ways to play with them, whether it be fetch or tug-of-war. Finally, they've had much better roles in movies and TV.

*\*Connor's opinions are his own and are not necessarily the opinions of the editors of the NDA Times (one of whom happens to have a cat... and a dog)*



# STUDENT STUDY HABITS

BY: Nora Bloom

*Are you ever unorganized? Do you need help remembering when things are due? Below are some suggestions on how to stay organized, and come up with a helpful after school routine.*

## **Use your planner.**

Write down all of your assignments, quiz and test dates, after school activities, and other reminders. Check your planner each day after school.

## **Take Good Notes.**

Have a designated notebook or section of a notebook for every class. Make sure that all of your notes are readable, so that you can look back on them for quiz, test, and final exam preparation.

## **Stay organized.**

Clean out your backpack at the end of each week. Empty it of all garbage, broken pencils, old announcements, but NEVER of old quizzes, tests or notes. Store these in a folder in your locker. You may need these for final exam preparation.

## **Complete all of your assignments.**

If you know that you have something missing, make sure that you complete it. Completing every assignment will really help to boost your grade. Go to google classroom> Sidebar>To Do> Missing. You will find any missing assignments here.

## **Study.**

When you have an upcoming quiz or test, review notes, and use resources given to you such as review games, or lesson summaries. You can also make flashcards and practice tests to ensure you do your very best.

## **Use all of your school time wisely.**

If you are given a study hall or a free period, use your time wisely. Complete any homework assignments so that you will have lots of free time when you get home.

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# LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION WITH NDA MEDIA DIRECTOR, CASH KIRKBY

BY: Connor Law

Whether it's the morning announcements or the NDA Facebook page, you can find the Notre Dame Media Club everywhere around the school. So, to get a little insight on this group, I asked the director, Cash Kirkby, about the ins-and-outs of this club. When asked about his job as a director, Cash said that his main priority is to make sure everything runs smoothly and announcements go off without a hitch. "When everyone can work together, that's when we succeed," Cash states.

According to Cash, the hardest part of being a director is that if everyone can't function properly, just one thing can go wrong and ruin the work. "Every minute detail is important, and it should be taken care of," Cash said.

When asked about what the worst example of this was, he told me a story that I remember quite well. "We had the cameras, so that we could record a mass.

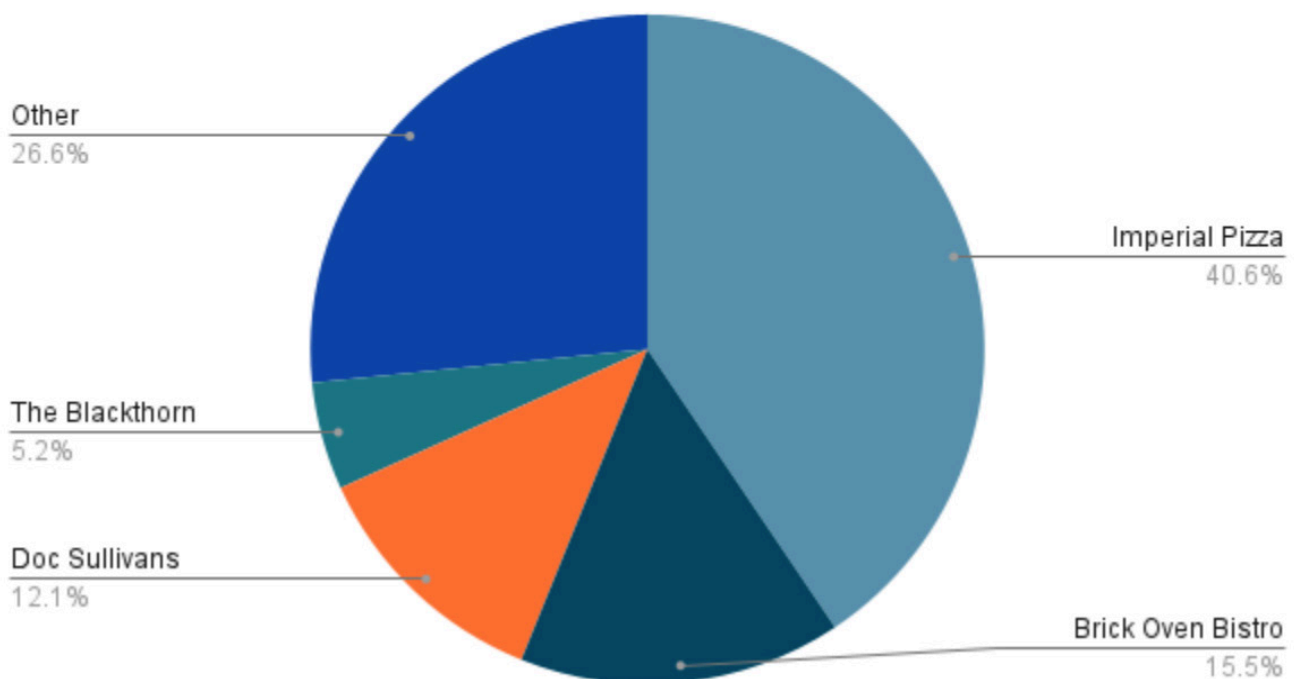
Lighting, cables, camera, audio—it was all perfect. We recorded a whole hour, but unfortunately, the technical directors forgot to insert the SD (save data) card. So we learned from our mistakes, and now we know to double check." Now, that mistake hasn't been made ever since.

Shifting from the hardest to the easiest, Cash said that it was by far knowing that everyone has a part: lighting, audio, everything.

As for the best and favorite part of the club, Cash said it has to be "the environment and people I get to work with." On TV, mistakes cannot be afforded, and that's why he loves that the people he works alongside know how to do their jobs.

Before we end this, I think we should appreciate just how much publicity Cash brings to the school, and just how much he does for us. With that, Connor, out.

## FAVORITE RESTAURANTS IN SOUTH BUFFALO



# A BOOK A DAY KEEPS THE GLOOM AWAY!

BY: Addison Cusack

The Notre Dame Academy middle school students and faculty recently held a reading contest. The goal of the contest was to see which team could earn the most points on Accelerated Reader. Points were earned by reading books at the student or teachers level, and then completing a book spine that was then turned into Mrs. Grew. The reading contest went from November 22nd through January 16th. It ended up getting expanded by a few days because we had a "snow week" so the deadline ended up being January 21st. Every Friday

Mrs. Grew would update the standings on the announcements. The winning team, the Hogwarts Hippogriffs, received a dress down for a week and ice cream for a week. The top three readers were Boril Stoyanov who earned 215.6 points, Lilah Godsoe who received 115.4 points, and Nora Bloom who earned 88.5 points for her team. Mrs. Grew states, "I am very proud of the students who participated in the contest. I love that many of the students also encouraged their teammates to read!" The reading tournament was a success!



## What sets NDA apart

By: Nora Bloom, 7th Grade

What sets my school apart?  
I don't know where to start!  
The teachers, the classmates, the community?  
The way two campuses come together in unity?  
NDA is a truly special place,  
Where learning, determination and hard work take place.  
There are so many opportunities that come our way  
Whether it be sports, clubs, or the magnificent play!  
We have projects, quizzes, labs, and tests  
Everyone encourages us to be our best!  
Teachers plant seeds of knowledge that blossom every day  
Exam preparation starts as early as mid-May  
We all try our best in all that we do  
NDA is the right choice for you!

# STANLEYS: SILLY OR SERIOUS?

By: Madelyn Martz and Allyson Ybarra

## **Say Yes to Stanleys!**

Stanleys are nice cups that are big enough to hold a lot of water. The colors on the Stanley are attention-grabbing and very pretty. These water bottles also keep water cold or hot for a long time. The handle on the cup is also a huge plus for these water bottles because if you are taking a walk around your work, office, or school, it is quite easy. Most importantly, Stanleys are dishwasher safe which makes Stanleys really easy to maintain and they are able to last a long time when properly cared for.

## **Stanleys are Overrated!**

Stanleys are overrated because they are overpriced, they are very heavy and big, and if you drop a Stanley at least two times, the results show that there will be a dent. Teachers actually complain that when those water bottles fall, they make very loud noises and spill water everywhere; both of these create a distraction in the classroom. Yes, they are nice water bottles but sometimes they can be too much to handle. I mean, why can't you get a plastic water bottle for a cheaper price, and also the same quality?

## **Reviews**

Many reviews on Amazon say that they contain lead and that they leak. One buyer said that they filled it with ice, then came back to it 2-3 hours later, and it was all melted. Another customer said the straw was unpleasant to drink from and that there was too much plastic.

Some reviews show good opinions though, like one customer said if they put something hot inside, it will stay hot (same thing for cold). Some say it's sturdy and the handle is comfortable too.



## **Overview**

Even though we say that the Stanleys are overrated and we prefer plastic water bottles, there are some people who like the Stanleys and prefer them better than other water bottles. In the end, it's up to you!

# MIA'S TOP TEN BOOK PICKS

BY: Mia Desiderio

Looking for a new book to add to your TBR (to be read) list? Check out this list of my top ten books for middle grade readers.

1. *Anne Frank : A Diary* by Anne Frank

This shows what living as a Jew in hiding was like in Amsterdam during World War Two.

2. *The Harry Potter Series* by J.K. Rowling

Harry has been living with his aunt and uncle for 11 years then he finds out that he is a wizard! Every book has an encounter with a powerful wizard, AKA You-Know-Who.

3. *Resistance* by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Chaya Lindier is a 16 year old girl who also happens to be a Jew in World War Two in Poland. She has joined the resistance, will she make it?

4. *Lines Of Courage* by Jennifer A. Neilson

Five people are living through World War One but one item will bring them together.

5. *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

Three different kids, three different times, three in need of refuge, but what could bring them together?

6. *Yellow Star* by Jennifer Roy

Syvia was brought to the Lodz Ghetto but after a while all children had to be sent away. Will her family be able to hide her?

7. *The Hunger Games Trilogy* by Suzanne Collins

This Series is about Katniss Everdeen, the story's narrator, who tells the tale of a dominating Capitol and the mistreated twelve districts of Panem. Yearly, each district is forced to send a boy and a girl between the age of 12 to 18, called tributes, to fight to the death in an annual Hunger Games.

8. *Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz

Brandon is at work with his dad when he looks at the date on his visitors ID card, the date is September 9, 2001. Eleven year old Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help him—and put herself and her family in mortal danger?

9. *Linked* by Gordon Korman

Told in alternating perspectives, the story follows the students as they embark on a lengthy tolerance-building curriculum, come up with an art project to commemorate Jewish victims of the Holocaust, deal with an out-of-town YouTuber who wants to go viral with his commentary on the story, and learn more about themselves and their family histories.

10. *Iceberg* by Jennifer A. Nielson

Hazel has snuck aboard the largest ocean liner ever built, but she finds trouble. Will it all be okay?

I hope you enjoy checking out these books! You won't be disappointed!





# THE INTEL ON ISSAC NEWTON

By: Madelyn Martz

Isaac Newton is known for his laws of motion, but there is more to know about him than just the story about an apple falling on his head. After you read this article, you won't have to say: "Oh, he's the guy who has the three laws of motion."

Isaac Newton's laws are very important, and you have been using the laws of motion ever since you were a baby. For example, when you drop a toy on the ground the gravitational force pulls it to the ground. The first law of motion explains an object at rest will remain at rest unless acted upon by a nonzero net

force. Newton's second law states that the acceleration of an object is directly proportional to the net force and inversely proportional to its mass. Newton's third law explains that for every action there is an equal (in strength) but opposite (in direction) reaction.

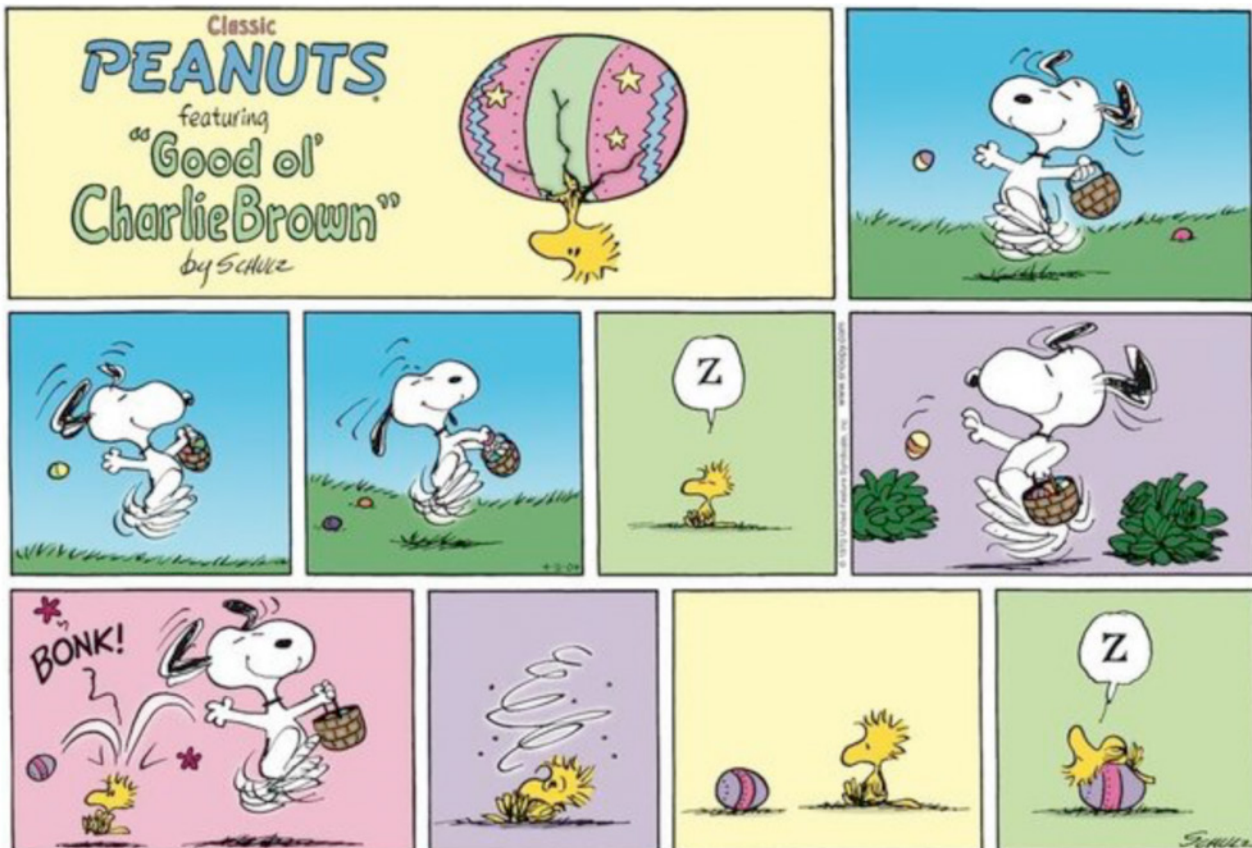
Newton discovered the gravitational force, which granted the ability to predict adjustments of objects in space. He also discovered calculus, a very difficult form of math. Isaac also invented the reflecting telescope, which he built to prove his theory that a bright white light was composed of many different spectrums of color.

Isaac Newton and his discoveries have had an important impact on us because we wouldn't have known about gravitational forces. So this story is the reason why next time you're asked about Sir Isaac Newton, you won't just say "the guy who saw an apple fall from a tree".

## Some Did You Knows:

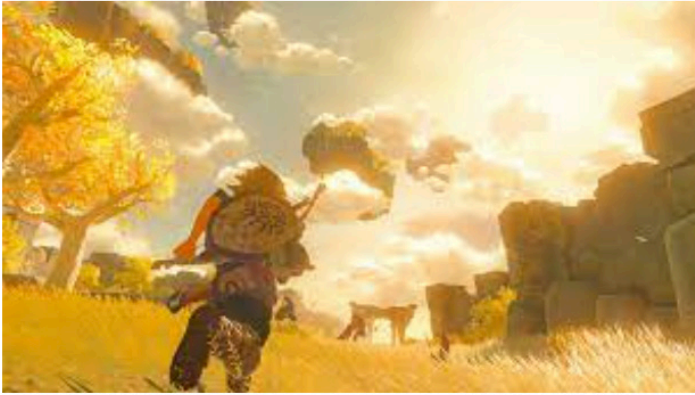
There are many other different discoveries that Sir Isaac has found but there are many interesting facts about him too like:

- He has two birthdays
- His dog set his laboratory on fire
- He was in fact more interested in religion than science



# TEARS OF THE KINGDOM: YOUR JOURNEY: A VIDEO GAME REVIEW

By: David Corbett



In 2023, people were waiting and waiting for the release of a special game, one that was announced all the way back in 2019. The game in question is the sequel to the hit Open World game: The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild. The sequel was given a bit of a sneak peak a while back, and was later named Tears of the Kingdom. Now, the game has finally been released, and it's just as good, if not better than we all expected!

In the game, the protagonist Link, a knight chosen to protect the royal family of Hyrule, goes under Hyrule castle with the wise princess Zelda, to investigate a strange evil substance leaking out from under the castle. There, they find ancient ruins, left behind by Zelda's ancestors, the Zonai, and a dried up mummy, with a glowing arm seemingly holding it down. The mummy comes alive, and attacks Link and Zelda with an evil energy, shattering Link's sword and wounding his arm. The castle rises into the sky, and Zelda falls into the darkness below. Link wakes up on a deserted island in the middle of the sky, and finds that his wounded arm has been replaced by a powerful new one, the arm of King Rauru of the Zonai. Rauru's ghost guides link through the island's many twists and turns. Link eventually obtains many special powers, allowing for a lot of creativity. For example, with the ultrahand ability you can levitate objects and move them freely, allowing you to attach them to create amazing contraptions. Link also has the ability to go through ceilings, rewind time, and stick weapons and items together.

The game has a vast world allowing for a lot of exploration. There are so many areas to explore and secrets to find, that you'll never get bored exploring. The worldbuilding and lore is really fascinating. For example, you might find an abandoned temple, sunken in a pond. Later in the game, you could find an article written on a wall, explaining how in the past, a temple sank into a pond after being sieged. While not explicitly stating where it's found, it adds a sense of mystery. You can do almost anything in this game, whether it be building wacky contraptions, exploring the vast world, hunting for treasure, photographing and research Hyrule's flora and fauna, becoming a great chef, build friendships with all of the quirky characters who inhabit the kingdom, or become a hero and save the world. This game has something for everyone, and will be a blast to play if you check it out. Note that the game is recommended for people over the age of 8 due to its difficulty and dark themes, so make sure it's the game for you before you play!

### Notre Dame Poem: Grow

By: Boril Stoyanov, 8th Grade

At NDA a child grows.  
Older and wiser,  
I'm sure it shows.

They grow higher and stronger.  
Always forward the cycle flows.

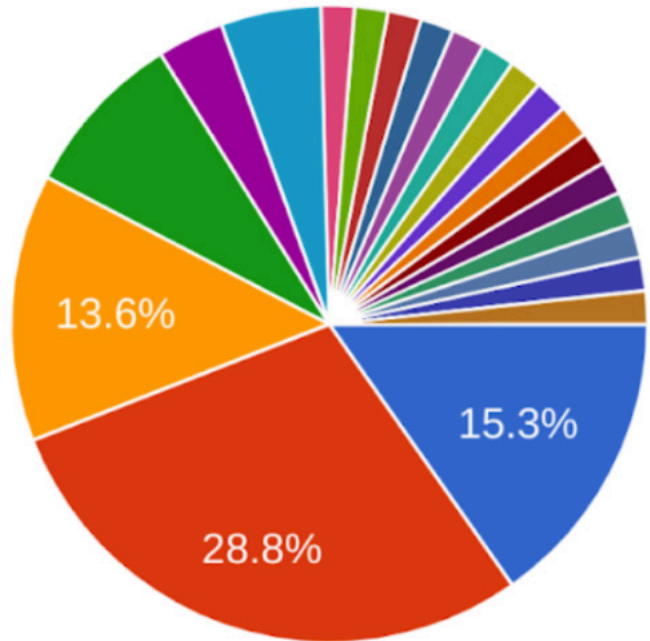
At NDA we learn to read and write.  
Smarter, kinder,

We grow to our highest height.  
We are truer, we are freer,  
And for what we believe in we're ready to  
fight.

At NDA we love our God.  
Nearer and dearer to him.  
You might call us crazy you might call us  
odd,  
But when we finally go abroad,  
We strive to please our holy God.

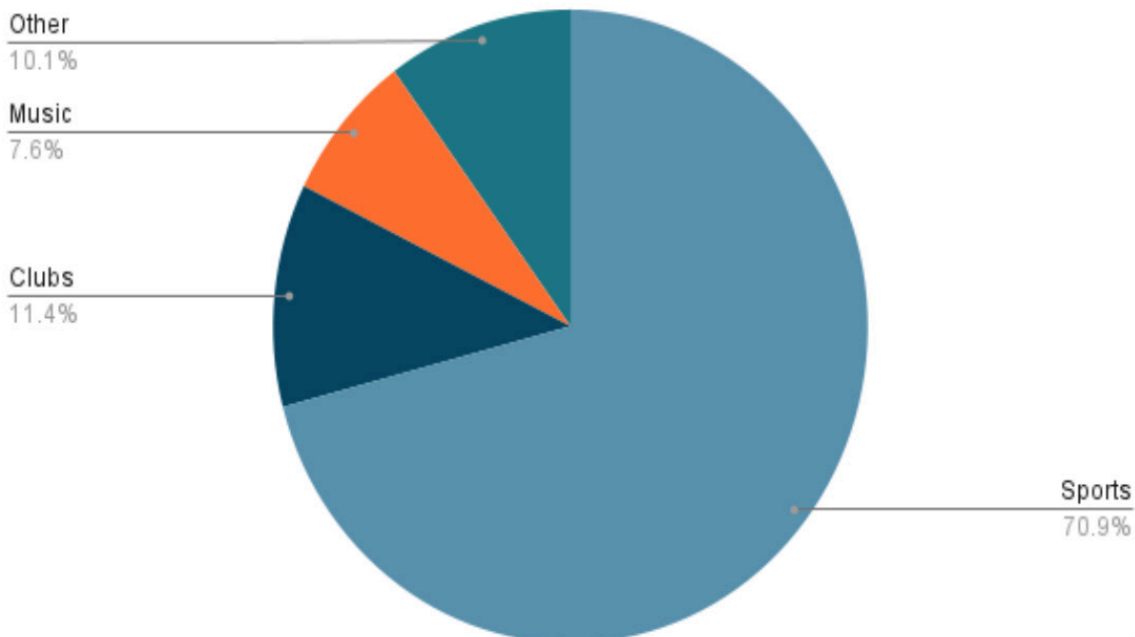
Notre Dame Academy, farewell.  
For you were the greatest place,  
For my middle school memories to dwell.  
I hold you dearest to my heart,  
But alas, we still must part

## FAVORITE HOCKEY PLAYER



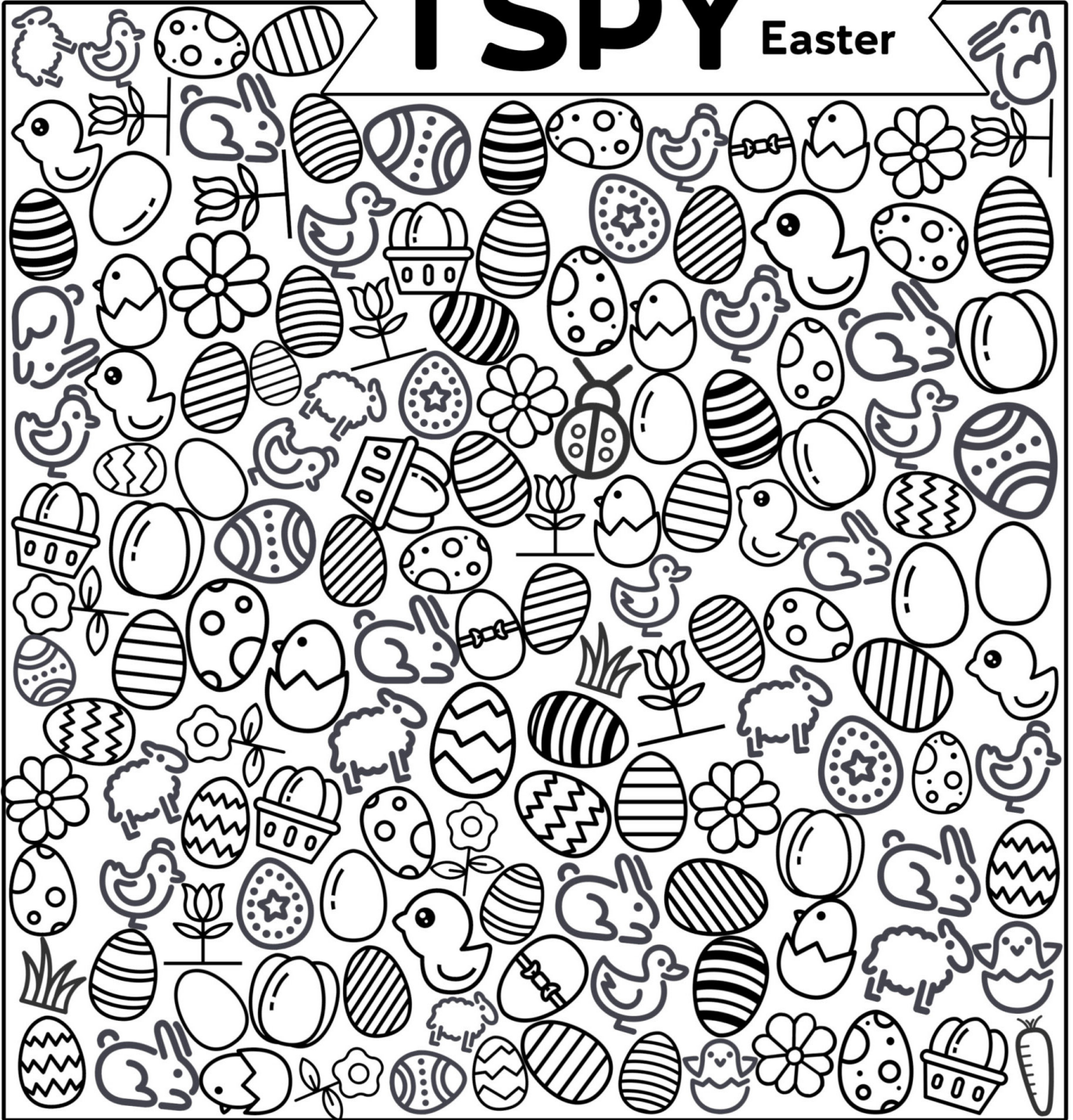
- Jack Hughes
- Tage Thompson
- Alex Tuch

## FAVORITE AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES





# I SPY Easter



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