



Homecoming Week Kicks Off Monday

By: Victoria Rossi

Next week, the halls at Newman Catholic Middle and High School will be bustling with activity as the high school classes participate in homecoming.

Art teacher Hilary Rinke has taken over as student council advisor and is in charge of events and themes for this year's homecoming. Mr. Rinke has held this position before in other schools, so he was well prepared for the role. Weighing his experiences at other schools, he said he believes the Newman Catholic Student Council is one of the most enthusiastic groups he has ever worked with. He was surprised with all the creative ideas the students were coming up with and was impressed.

"This year's homecoming will be different from our previous homecomings, as we had new people with a new perspective to it," Mr. Rinke said. "We have come a long way with planning this and are looking forward to the outcome."

The only struggle he said they faced was the timing they had to plan everything. Mr. Rinke said he was very proud of how the student council was able to handle planning homecoming with a calm, positive attitude in light of tight schedules and a short time frame. He also mentioned that there would be exciting surprises at the Friday night assembly.

"Everybody should go, and we expect to see you there," he said.

Continued on page 4



The sophomore class meets Tuesday, September 13 to discuss homecoming plans.

Homecoming Schedule

Breakfast of Champions

Seniors - Captain Crunch

Juniors - Lucky Charms

Sophomores - Wheaties

Freshman - Frosted Flakes

Monday 9/19 - Dress as Your Cereal; Kick-off Pep Rally and Hallway Decorations

Tuesday 9/20 - Class T-shirt Day; Field Games

Wednesday 9/21 - Dress Your Best (Mass Day); Anything But a Backpack

Thursday 9/22 - Country vs. Country Club

Friday 9/23 - Decades Day; Powder Puff Game at 12:35 p.m.; Homecoming Pep Rally at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9/24 - Homecoming Football Game at Balliet Field at 1:00 p.m.



The Red Hat

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Staff

Editor-In-Chief: Hanna Seidl Class of '24

Writers: Molly Lang Class of '24

Kaylee List Class of '24

Victoria Rossi Class of '24

Tomi Odeyemi Class of '24

Advisor: Miss Kaley Fech Class of '15

History of The Red Hat

The Red Hat was founded February 6, 1951 by Bishop John P. Treacy and the first class of Newman Catholic High School. Originally the name of the yearbook, *The Red Hat* became the name for Newman's newspaper. The newspaper was published every month.

The Red Hat ran on-and-off for 55 years but released its last edition in 2006 due to lack of interest. From 2010-2012 there was an attempt to restart a version of *The Red Hat* in an online "blog" form but proved unsustainable due to a lack of interest.

In September 2020, *The Red Hat* was reinstated as a digital newspaper, combining both the traditional newspaper and modern blog styles from the past and released nine editions during the school year. A dedicated student staff continued the paper during the 2021-2022 school year, publishing eight editions.

The Red Hat strives to revive the spirit of Newman Catholic High School, bringing school pride and tradition back to the student body.

Ackermann Takes Over as Athletic Director

By: Hanna Seidl



Mr. Ackermann gives a thumbs up to his new position at Newman Catholic Middle and High School.

In July, Newman Catholic High School hired Joe Ackermann as the new athletic director. He has been a familiar face in the Newman community for many years as a parent, teacher, and coach.

Before this year, Mr. Ackermann was a middle school social studies, math, and religion teacher. He started out in the Newman Catholic community as a long term substitute teacher for sixth grade.

"I really like middle school kids," he said. "It's not just about teaching them material, it's more about getting to know them."

Near the end of June, Newman Catholic Schools was in search of an athletic director, and the athletic director position was something Mr. Ackermann was thinking about. Due to the late notice, he had a hard time making the decision.

Continued on page 5

Hoffmann Leaves the River for New Adventure in a Classroom

By: Molly Lang

Michael Hoffmann is a new social studies teacher at Newman Catholic High School, teaching United States Government and American History during the first semester.

Mr. Hoffmann has enjoyed learning about history since he was in grade school. He loves to make connections between history and modern day situations and to share the knowledge he has with other people. He also enjoys the setting of a Catholic school, which is why he chose to work at Newman. He moved to Wausau from Colorado in August to take the job. Mr. Hoffmann grew up Catholic, and he went to a Catholic school his entire life, graduating from Marquette University High School in Marquette in 2009. Not only did he learn in a Catholic setting, but he has also been teaching in Catholic schools for the past five years.

“I enjoy working in Catholic schools,” he said.

As much as Mr. Hoffmann enjoys teaching, this isn’t the only job he has had. He worked in an office, as a river raft guide, and a roofer.



Mr. Hoffman (back left) said river rafting is one of his favorite hobbies. (Photograph provided by Mr. Hoffmann)



Mr. Hoffmann supervises an eighth period study hall.

He has made maps on Geographic Information System (GIS) programs and has helped with after school programs.

While being a river raft guide, Mr. Hoffmann went on many adventures with many different people. One time, he took a little girl and her family out on a raft. The little girl was afraid of snakes, so she asked Mr. Hoffmann if there would be any snakes in the water. At that time, Mr. Hoffmann had been river rafting for five years and had never seen a snake, so he told the girl just that.

A couple minutes after he said there’d be no snakes, a snake jumped out of the water and into the raft. Three people were so scared that they jumped out of the raft and into the rapids. The little girl was terrified and called Mr. Hoffmann a liar for the rest of the trip.

As he settles into his new role at Newman, he is looking forward to meeting new people and being a part of a new community.

“I’m most looking forward to getting to know the Newman community, especially as someone that just moved to Wausau,” he said. Since administrators are still figuring out who will be teaching which classes next semester, it has not yet been decided which courses Mr. Hoffmann will be teaching in the spring.

Classes Prepare for Festivities (Continued from page 1)

The theme for this year is "Breakfast of Champions." Each class is a different cereal; the seniors have Captain Crunch, juniors have Lucky Charms, sophomores have Wheaties, and the freshmen have Frosted Flakes.

There will be different competitions and events each day. Monday, September 19 will be Theme Dress Up Day, where each grade dresses up as their cereal theme.

Tuesday, September 20 will be Class T-shirt Day and Field Games. Each grade will receive points for wearing their class t-shirts and can earn more points by winning field games. During field games, classes will compete against each other in basic outdoor games such as kickball.

Wednesday, September 21 is Dress Your Best for mass and Anything But a Backpack Day, where students bring anything but a backpack to carry their school supplies in.

Thursday, September 22 will be Country vs. Country Club, where students can either dress like they came from the country or the country club.

Friday, September 23 will be Dress as a Decade, whether that be the 60s, 70s, 80s, et cetera. Friday afternoon, the girls in the junior and senior classes will compete in the powder puff game at 12:35pm on the Newman Catholic High School football field. There will be a pep rally Friday evening at 6:30 p.m.

This year's homecoming football game will take place at Newman Catholic High School September 24 at 1 p.m. against Almond-Bancroft. Head Coach Paul Michlig said he feels there is a great opportunity to take yet another win during this game.

"We have a great group of seniors with the underclassmen always pushing them," he said. "We are blessed to have some very skilled athletes this season."

Smith Joins High School Science Squad

By: Tomi Odeyemi



Mr. Smith said he is excited about teaching chemistry at Newman Catholic High School.

School is a place for learning new things, and that is what Newman Catholic High School chemistry teacher Jon Smith strives to help his students do each day.

Mr. Smith, originally a pharmacist, decided during the Covid-19 pandemic that he'd like to try his hand at teaching. In 2021, he completed his student teaching at Marathon High School in Marathon City, Wisconsin to finish the necessary requirements for his teaching license. Student teaching only lasted a semester, so during the spring semester, he started doing labs on his own because he missed science and students.

Transitioning to school from a different career can be tough, especially coming into a Catholic school from a public one, but Mr. Smith said he's found the experience quite nice.

Continued on page 6

Ackermann Embraces New Role at Middle and High School

(Continued from page 2)

“Honestly, it was a difficult decision for me because I love being in the classroom and being with kids,” he said. “But at the same time, I was ready to try something new and take on a new challenge.”

Mr. Ackermann said Paul Michlig, dean of students and varsity football coach, helped me make the transition. Mr. Michlig has also been the athletic director in past years.

“One super asset is Mr. Michlig because he’s been the athletic director here before and he’s worked here for a long time,” Mr. Ackermann said. “He knows this school inside and out.”

The athletic director takes care of all the behind the scenes details of school sports. Mr. Ackermann is the coordinator for all middle and high school sports plus fourth and fifth grade basketball.

Mr. Ackermann is in charge of a lot of different aspects of Newman athletics. He works on arranging times and details for games and practices.

“Organizing games and practice schedules is a huge part of my job,” he said. “We have limited gym space available, so trying to make sure everyone has a practice spot is important.”

Mr. Ackermann is also in charge of making sure the sports teams have officials for their events, ordering uniforms and equipment, and coordinating bleachers and seating for the games.

“I also work closely with the booster club for fundraising,” Mr. Ackermann said.

The Newman Catholic Athletic Booster Club organizes fundraisers such as Swingfest and Cabin Fever. These fundraisers raise money for equipment and uniforms for the athletes.

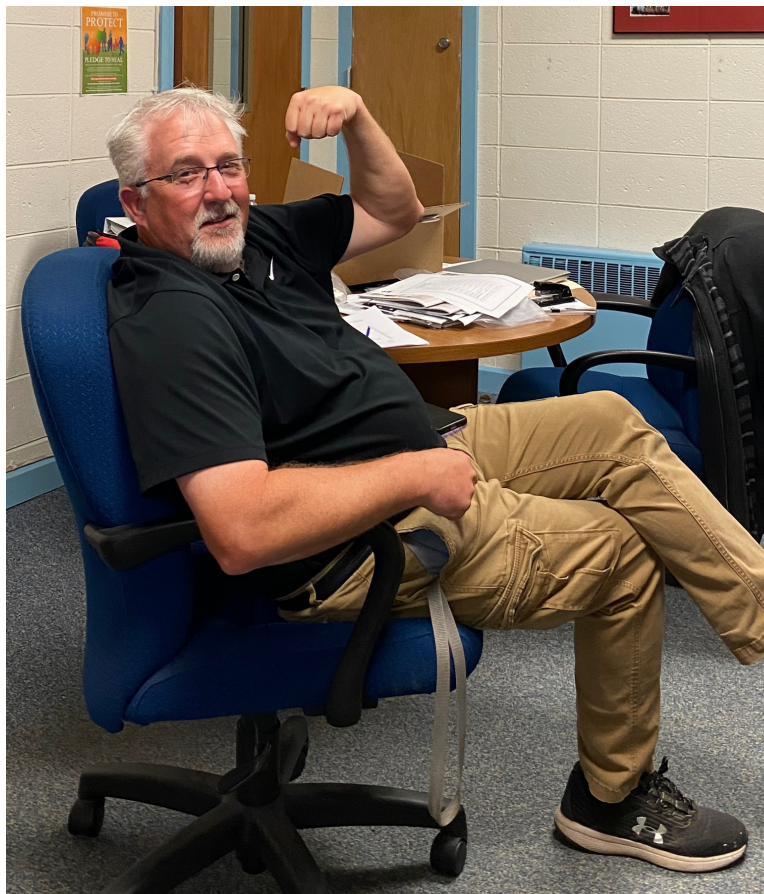
Mr. Ackermann is also the coach of the high school baseball team, so he knows how important it is to have everything organized.

Mr. Ackermann has enjoyed his new position and is excited to learn more about Newman athletics.

“I like to stay up to date on each sport,” he said. “I enjoy seeing how they improve and how the teams do.”

Mr. Ackermann has just started this new job but is already hoping that he can do more.

“If everything goes as I wanted it to, I could get a handle on the athletic directing job and then maybe teach a class or two,” he said. “That way I have the best of both worlds.”



Mr. Ackermann strategizes with Mr. Michlig often, as Mr. Michlig served as athletic director in the past and knows everything about the school.

Smith Brings Energy to High School Science

(Continued from p. 4)

“I think it's refreshing and that number one you can express your religious viewpoints,” he said. “I saw Newman as a fresh start and being with kids makes me happy.”

Mr. Smith explained why he became a chemistry and physics teacher.

“I’m a very logical person so chemistry and physics always made sense,” he said. “It's fun to teach because you can take things in small bits and pieces and see something complex, and later in the year kids that have never seen it before understand it. It's the reason why kids become doctors and scientists.”

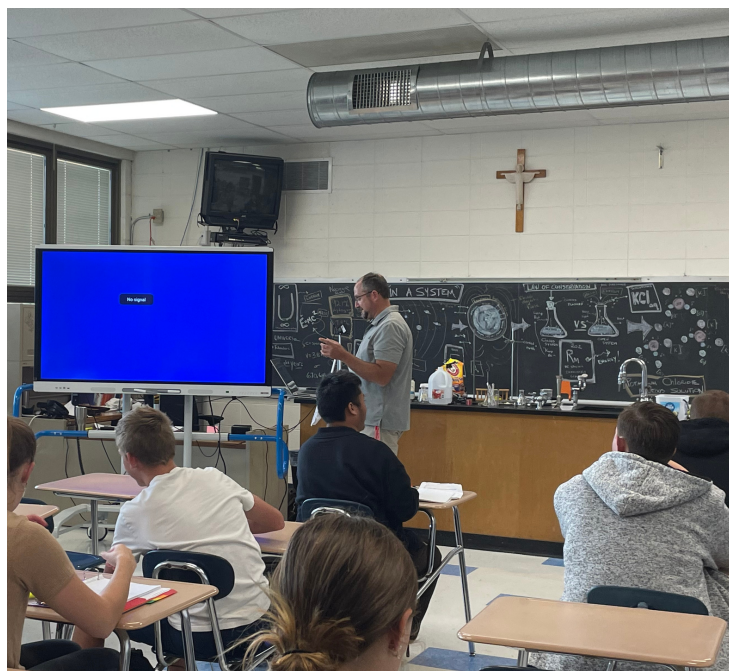
He said he knows that some students like to be difficult and loud during class, chatting with friends and not paying attention.

“I was a kid once too,” he said. “I also have teenagers of my own, so I’m quite understanding of the fact of growing teens. I was also once ‘full of it,’ and having conversations with them about my expectations is key.”

Mr. Smith strives to help students succeed in his classroom.

“I think we designed the program so that any student could do well enough,” he said. “I am not saying everyone should get an ‘A’ because someone may be an average physics student or an average chemistry student, but failing should not be an option if the curriculum is designed the right way.”

Some teachers prefer a chalkboard, but not Mr. Smith. He supports the use of technology in the classroom. Phones, when used the right way, are not a problem for him.



Mr. Smith prepares to teach a sophomore chemistry class.

“If you want to take pictures of your notes go right ahead,” he said. “I love technology! It helps make my life so much easier.”

In his free time, Mr. Smith runs a hobby farm. “My wife and I have built several barns over the years,” he said. “I grew up getting exposure to horses. I wanted to own horses for my kids and for myself. My wife was never exposed to horses, so she brought goats to practice on. We ended up getting goats ahead of the horses but they tricked us. Turns out when you buy the goats, you can’t give them back!”

He also builds theatrical sets for shows and plays at The Grand Theater in downtown Wausau. He talks about how those involved are so incredibly appreciative of his work and that one of the reasons he continued to do it is because they were so extremely kind and grateful.

“If you don’t have a good set you won’t have a good play,” he said.

Mr. Smith said he is looking forward to a great year with new opportunities and new people.

Newman Catholic Welcomes Students Back to School



Fr. Eric Mashak, chaplain at Newman Catholic Middle and High School, blesses the freshmen in the chapel.
(Photographs provided by Jill Mabry)



Seniors James Bates (from left), Matthew Hamilton, Eli Gustafson, Mason Prey, and Thomas Bates cheer at the pep rally Friday, August 26.



After defeating Three Lakes Friday evening, August 26, the varsity football team meets to listen to Coach Michlig talk.



The Newman Catholic marching band members Damien Puent (from left), Ada Stenstrom, Tanner Henley, Madison Beck, Wyatt Gasper, director Mrs. Mootz, and Vlad Cherf practice for the Labor Day Parade in the Newman parking lot Monday, September 5.

From the Principal's Desk

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a fast start, and I am encouraged by the optimism and focus that I am seeing throughout the building. Starting a new year gives us the opportunity to make new plans, design new strategies, and implement new ideas. We spent the first few weeks of the year unveiling the Cardinal Character traits and the Community Period, hoping to build a sense of connectedness to the school and to one another. The foundation has been laid, but it is up to the student body to embrace these and make Newman Catholic a great place to come to every day.

I will continue to challenge students to take pride in their school and in all that they do. I want them to take ownership of creating a better school climate. My door remains open if you have ideas on how we can improve what we are doing. The school is here for you, so it is up to you to help us.

Principal Fech

Students: Do you have a photo of a school activity that you'd like to see in *The Red Hat*? Email it to 24hseidl@newman.k12.wi.us.