



Newman Proudly Celebrates Catholic Education

By: Paige Guld

Catholic Schools Week is something Newman Catholic Schools has taken part in for years. It's a time for fun activities and coming together. Starting off the week Monday, January 30, Amanda Ladecki and Sandi Kelch from the Community Outreach Task Force came to talk with students about the unhoused population in Wausau (*see related story in this edition*).

Tuesday, January 31, students took part in minute-to-win-it games, which are a series of small tasks students have to complete in under a minute, competing (*continued on page 4*)



Bishop Callahan celebrates mass along with other local priests. (Photograph provided by Jill Mabry)

Students Explore Unique College Science Department

By: Hanna Seidl

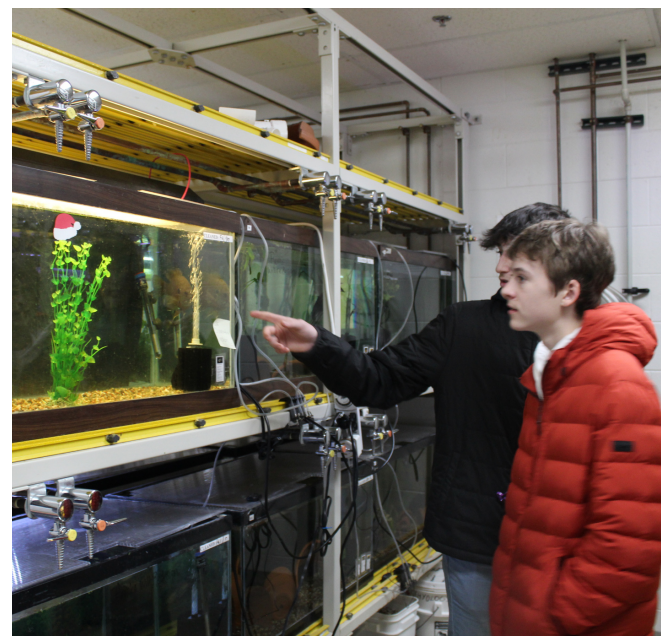
Environmental science students from Newman Catholic High School visited the extensive science department at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) Monday, January 30. High school science teacher Sonja Gasper wanted her students to get an inside look at the department and all that it offers.

The environmental science course at Newman covers how many factors can contribute to the environment. Students learn how different practices, such as mining and construction, can

affect the environment.

Mrs. Gasper contacted Dr. Brian Barringer, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Biology at UWSP. Dr. Barringer earned his bachelor of science degree in evolution and ecology at the University of California-Davis and his doctor of philosophy degree in ecology and evolutionary biology at Cornell University.

Dr. Barringer agreed to conduct the tour and even contacted some of his colleagues to meet with the students as well. (*continued on page 6*)



Samuel Nelson (front) and Steven Klement (back) explore the facilities in the UWSP science department.



The Red Hat

Founded 1951

Reinstated Fall of 2020



Published every month by *THE RED HAT* staff
of Newman Catholic High School in Wausau, Wisconsin

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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.

Speakers Advocate for Wausau's Unhoused



Sandi Kelch (left) and Amanda Ladecki speak to the middle and high school. (Photograph provided by Jill Mabry)

By: Grace Carlson

During Catholic Schools Week, Newman Catholic Middle and High School invited two speakers from the Community Outreach Task Force to talk to students. Amanda Ladecki, outreach director, and Sandi Kelch, executive director, spoke about the program and what is commonly misunderstood about the unhoused.

One of the struggles that the unhoused face is finding long-term shelter and employment, Mrs. Ladecki said. Their clients are continuously in survival mode while living on the streets.

"Housing with extended long-term services would help with stabilizing and finding employment," she said. "We do have some clients who are working full-time jobs and are still surviving on the streets. This isn't an easy thing to do."

Sleep is an essential element that many who get it regularly often take for granted.

"With housing, they would have an address to list on applications, the ability to shower daily and have clean clothing, but most importantly they will have adequate sleep," she said. "Some of our clients stay awake all night, for safety reasons, and then sleep during the day when they are safer." (continued on page 7)

Students to Take On Washington D.C. in March

By: Jackson Varline

Three central Wisconsin Catholic schools are teaming up to offer students a chance to visit Washington, D.C. A group of eighth graders, freshmen, and sophomores from Newman Catholic Middle and High School, Pacelli, and Assumption will head east over spring break to take in everything the nation's capital has to offer.

High school social studies teacher Ryan Moore and middle school science and civics teacher Halle Vardon will accompany the

group. The trip to Washington, D.C. is a four day trip. Students will leave Friday, March 17 and return late Monday, March 20. The tour each day is roughly 16 hours long, starting at 7 a.m. and continuing until 11 p.m..

"I have done this kind of trip before, and you are up and moving [all day] for the days you are there," Mr. Moore said.

The students are funding their own trips, but there were fundraising opportunities. The group will take a bus from Stevens Point to Milwaukee and then fly from Milwaukee to

Washington, D.C.

Once in Washington, D.C., they will be visiting monuments, Ford's Theatre, the Pentagon, the Supreme Court building, the Catholic Basilica where they will be attending mass, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives.

"The purpose of the trip is to give the students a hands-on historical background of the United States Capitol, and it also creates a good background for when the students take US government," Mr. Moore said.

Check back at the end of March for a follow up on how the trip went.

Meet Mrs. Knispel - the Friendly Face in Student Services

By: Grace Hoelter

Jodi Knispel is the new Student Services administrative assistant at Newman Catholic Middle and High School. She began working at the school in October.

"I chose Newman because I wanted a different setting from my past job working with elderly people for 17 years," she said. "Working with the elderly and working with middle and high school students are kind of the same. They both need someone to meet their needs."

In her free time, Mrs. Knispel said she enjoys flower gardening and being in the sunshine. She also enjoys riding in her side by side and being out by the campfire. She also likes to go to estate sales and antique shopping and thrifting.

Mrs. Knispel spent 17 years as an assisted living caregiver. She has also been a CNA and a bus driver.

She said her favorite part about

working at Newman is the staff members and the student body.

"You guys [Newman students] are just so respectful and patient, and it's nice knowing that," she said.

Mrs. Knispel said there are many challenges to the job, but she's learning more each day.

"Anything with a new job is difficult and can be frustrating," she said. "Overall the hardest thing about my job is remembering the names of everyone. There's one of me and so many of you guys, and it's hard to remember so many names."

St. Anne Fish Fry Volunteers Needed

St. Anne Parish is bringing back their annual fish fry and is looking for volunteers for each Friday during Lent. The first fish fry will be February 24. Any high school student is welcome to volunteer. Volunteering is an excellent way to get service hours. For more



Jodi Knispel greets students on their way into the school.

information, visit <https://stanneswausau.org/fishfry>.

From the Editor's Desk
Students: Do you have a photo of a school activity that you'd like to see in the next edition of *The Red Hat*? Email it to 24hseidl@newman.k12.wi.us or theredhat@newman.k12.wi.us.

Catholic Schools Week Is Full of Faith and Fun

(continued from page 1) against each other. The senior class took first place for high school.

Wednesday, February 1, the middle and high school went bowling at Dale's Weston Lanes.

"Going bowling with my friends

is my favorite part about Catholic Schools Week," senior Isaac Seidel said.

Thursday, February 2, NCES: St. Anne, NCES: St. Mark, St. Mary (Marathon), and St. John the Baptist (Edgar) joined the

middle and high school for an all-school mass that took place in the gym with Bishop Callahan and area priests and deacons. Many students said they enjoy not only the activities but the meaning behind the week.

"Catholic Schools Week is more than just the fun days," said senior Matt Hamilton. "It is more important to me to have mass with the Bishop because that is only a once-a-year opportunity that does not come by often."

Finally, Friday, February 3, students played bingo, and there were many fun prizes to win. Catholic Schools Week is a great time for the students to have a break and some fun together, but it remains important to understand why Catholics celebrate the week.

"Catholic Schools Week represents our faith and we attend school here because of that," said Paul Michlig, Dean of Students. "This is something not just celebrated here, but across the state, and we are very thankful for the opportunity to celebrate why we are here at Newman Catholic."



Daniel Beck (left) and Sam Beaumont participate in Catholic Schools Week minute to win it games. *(Photograph provided by Jill Mabry)*

Disco Fever Prom Announced; Tickets on Sale in Early April

Prom will be held at the Wausau Country Club Saturday, April 29. This year's theme is Disco Fever. Grand March will be held in the Newman Catholic High School gymnasium at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., and a live DJ will begin at 7 p.m.

Anyone who wishes to attend the dance will need to purchase a ticket. Tickets will be \$40 and will be sold during high school lunch Tuesday, April 4 through Thursday, April 6. Tickets **MUST** be purchased on these days - late sales will not be

permitted, as the venue needs an exact number in order to plan the dinner.

Guests who do not attend Newman Catholic High School are permitted, but anyone wishing to bring someone from another school will need to see Ms. Fech for the required paperwork. Unapproved guests will not be allowed to enter the dance.

Students should check their emails for Prom updates from Ms. Fech and/or Ms. Vardon.



Principal Carl Fech reads out bingo numbers during Catholic Schools Week.

Bishop Callahan Celebrates Mass with Newman Family

By: *Eva Espinoza-Almazar*

The all schools mass held during Catholic Schools Week at Newman Catholic Middle and High School is a much beloved tradition among both students and teachers. The Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan presided over the mass along with a myriad of deacons and priests from local churches Thursday, February 2.

“The whole idea of coming to the schools for Catholic education, it’s terribly important,” Bishop Callahan said. “Visiting Catholic schools is one of the most important things I do as bishop. It’s important to the schools, and it’s important to listen to the young people who are calling me, talking to me, and asking me questions.”

The bishop said he feels strongly that being a bishop today is much harder than it was in the past. “I’m trying to do something for everybody in a positive way,” he said.

Bishop Callahan said he is hopeful for improvements in behavior at schools and a more genuine approach to Catholicism and Catholic values in students.

“Catholic education in the diocese

Lenten Season

Begins Wednesday

Lent begins this Wednesday, February 22. In celebration of Fat Tuesday, students are invited to participate in a dress up day. Middle and high school students will attend a combined mass on Ash Wednesday.



Bishop Callahan gives his homily during mass. (Photograph provided by Jill Mabry)

is, I think, very fine,” he said. “If growth means anything, our numbers are increasing in all of our schools.”

In alignment, Bishop Callahan said he is in favor of the idea of a classical school, which is a school that works to highlight the

earnings of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. The Bishop said he believes that students would thrive in this environment and the teaching of different languages, specifically Latin, would positively benefit prospective students through its relation to Scripture.

Bishop Callahan addressed a worry of many Catholics today - the idea of adapting to a more diverse world.

“The idea of a ‘diverse’ world is so heavily nuanced, and people expect us to understand that there are all sorts of ways in which people behave and act,” Bishop Callahan said. “We’re supposed to try hopefully to get people to come to an understanding to know that God is good.”



Brock Gasper (left), Matthew Meyer, Carson Calo, Thomas Bates, and Conner Krach served for Bishop Callahan.

Juniors Prepare To Take ACT Exam

Most juniors will take the ACT Tuesday, March 7. They will not attend regular classes that day. Students will need to be at school no later than 7:45 a.m. Per ACT

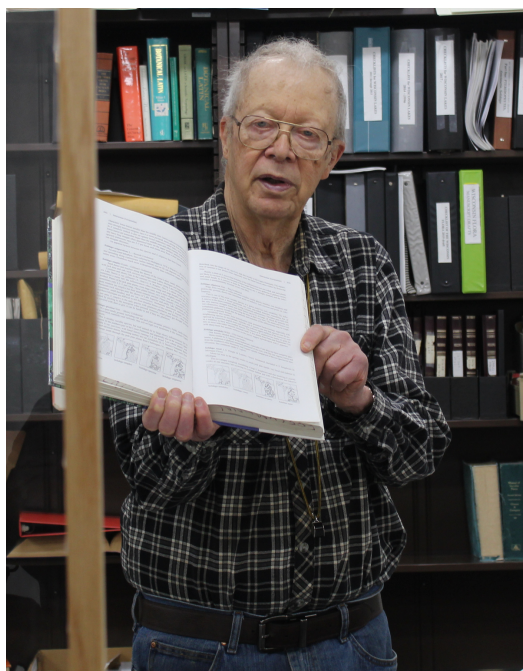
regulations, any student who arrives late cannot be admitted to the test room. Students taking the test will be dismissed from school at 12:30 p.m.

Environmental Science Class Gains Insight at UWSP

(continued from page 1) These colleagues included Dr. Nathan Bowling, chair of the Department of Chemistry, and Caitlin Alba, a recruitment specialist in the Natural Resources Department. They emphasized the benefits of the majors they offer that prospective students might find appealing.

“I have a sincere passion for helping my students succeed along whatever path they've chosen for themselves,” Dr. Barringer said. “I take great pride in helping to foster a sense of community among faculty and students.”

During the tour, the students ran into Dr. Robert W. Freckmann, the namesake of the UWSP herbarium, which contains a collection of preserved plant species. He demonstrated how he collects and preserves plant specimens and showed the students his extensive collection of species.



Robert Freckmann presents a book in the UWSP herbarium.



Dr. Nathan Bowling, a chemistry professor at UWSP, speaks to students in one of many chemistry labs.

“Dr. Freckmann exemplified how learning is lifelong,” Mrs. Gasper said. “I loved that the tour included opportunities for [students] to see that instructors are truly passionate about what they teach.”

Mrs. Gasper said that UWSP is one of the best kept secrets of the Midwest in terms of colleges.

“Students have the opportunity to participate in active research projects being conducted by their professors at UWSP,” she said. “This gives them the chance to really focus on a passion and also the chance to be published before they even finish their undergraduate studies.”

Newman students got to see multiple biology and chemistry labs, lecture rooms, greenhouses, and research projects. They saw many students who were in the middle of performing research and studying different sciences.

Dr. Barringer stressed the importance of touring a school before attending it. He said he believes that nothing beats an in-person tour where students get to see the facilities first hand.

“A person's college education will have a huge impact on their life,” Dr. Barringer said. “For that reason, it's important to choose wisely.”

Mrs. Gasper, too, encourages students to visit a college in-person. She said she thought it was special that students got to receive a tour from the head of the department.

“It allows visitors to ask in-depth questions that a normal tour guide may not be able to answer,” she said.

Dr. Barringer said that most importantly, students should enjoy the time they spend in college.

“Get outside of your comfort zone and expand your horizons,” Dr. Barringer said. “When you're older, you'll look back on your time in college and cherish the memories you made.”

Community Outreach Task Force Shares Mission

(continued from page 2) The trauma that many of their clients have gone through and survived is unbelievable, Mrs. Ladecki said.

“I hope Sandi and I were able to correct misinformation,” she said. “Most of the unhoused have had some unspeakable things happen to them in their lives, and they never received the help they needed.”

The Community Outreach Task Force runs everything out of a bus. There are moments of difficulty, but it is usually a smooth operation, Mrs. Ladecki said.

“The clients are able to have a nice lunch, get the supplies they need, learn about resources that are available to them from our group and the other

agencies in town, and they have the ability to sleep with the comfort of being safe,” she said.

The bus is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mrs. Ladecki said she has always had a passion for helping others.

“I remember when the City of Wausau first started developing along the river banks downtown and saw the amount of unhoused people that were currently in Wausau,” she said. “I still cannot understand how [people think] it is okay for anyone to end up in that position.”

Mrs. Ladecki said she has had a great experience with the program, and she can sum her experience up in two words.

“Hope and faith,” she said. “We tend to work with people who have given up hope on tomorrow or have lost faith that good things can still happen in their lives. When you watch a person get that spark in their eye back... believing that tomorrow can be a better day and that they do deserve it... it’s indescribable. My motto is, you have to have faith in something, even if it’s just in tomorrow.”

Anyone is welcome to help with the Community Outreach Task Force. Any donations, including monetary donations, made lunches, and clothes are welcome. There is a Facebook group for the Community Outreach Task Force.

Viterbo Choir Brings Spirited Performance to Newman

By: Samuel Nelson

The Viterbo Concert, Platinum, Gold, and Show choirs came to sing at Newman Catholic Middle and High School Thursday, January, 26.

Newman choir teacher Patricia Reogout said that the Viterbo’s choirs were absolutely fabulous and incredibly meaningful for the student body.

The Viterbo choir is made up of not only students that want to be in the music arts professionally, but also students that just want to learn more about music and sing in a musical environment.

Principal Carl Fech said the choir directors reached out to Newman and offered to come perform for the student body.

“We thought it was a good opportunity



Viterbo students put on a performance. (Photograph provided by Jill Mabry)

for our students,” he said. “It’s also a good way for Viterbo’s choir to promote themselves and maybe reach a few students interested in attending their school.”

Many students at Newman said that

they loved the Viterbo choir and wanted to hear more of their songs. One student, Senior Matthew Hamilton, said that he thought it was a great use of time. Many students said that they loved the songs the choirs sang.

Vardon Brings Energy, Passion to the Classroom

By: Grace Carlson

This is Halle Vardon's first year teaching at Newman Catholic Middle School, and she teaches seventh and eighth grade science and eighth grade civics. Ms. Vardon said her favorite subject to teach is science, but she is learning to like civics. Ms. Vardon grew up in Algoma, Wisconsin, a small town south of Door County.

"It's a small fishing community - the salmon capital of the Midwest," Ms. Vardon said.

Ms. Vardon was very active in high school sports, playing basketball and softball. After high school, Ms. Vardon attended University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Ms. Vardon majored in natural sciences (science education) with a minor in biology and coaching/leadership. She continued to play softball in college for one year, but had to step off the field due to injury.

Ms. Vardon said she always knew she wanted to be a teacher but was not always sure of the age.

"I knew I wanted to be a teacher since I was little, but I really enjoyed working with middle school aged kids when I was working in my student teaching experience," she said.

Ms. Vardon worked at a summer camp, and the middle school cabins were always her favorite. Although Ms. Vardon has found her place in the middle school, teaching high school was once a possibility.

"I really did think I wanted to do high school until I graduated, and then I decided to do middle school instead," she said.

Ms. Vardon said that right now her



Ms. Vardon is enjoying her first year at Newman Catholic.

science students are finishing up a chemistry unit, and they did a chemical versus physical changes lab.

"They are testing out common white household powders," she said. "Baking soda, baking powder, powdered sugar, and cornstarch, and they were using three different solutions to see what kind of reactions occurred."

These solutions were water, vinegar, and iodine, she said. They were able to see what indicators led to a chemical change. The fun twist on this lab was that Ms. Vardon staged it as a crime scene, and the students had to figure out who stole a cake.

"They were running around the school, trying to find a cake," she said. "Then they actually got to find a cake and eat it."

Ms. Vardon said she has had a great experience at Newman so far and enjoys the environment.

"The people here, not just the students, but the people I work with, are pretty awesome," she said. "Yelling at Senora Meyers through my vent is a pretty good one too. It's fun."

Even though Ms. Vardon has only been here for a short amount of time, she said she hopes to have a lasting impact on her students.

"I hope they remember to be good people," she said. "I think the biggest thing I want students to do when they walk out of my classroom is to be kind to one another."

Since Ms. Vardon has a history with softball and basketball, she said she would be interested in helping with middle school extracurricular activities.

Bake Sale Is Wednesday, March 8

The freshman class will host an early St. Patrick's Day bake sale Wednesday, March 8 during the middle and high school lunches. All baked goods will

cost between \$1 and \$5. All proceeds will go towards future expenses for the Class of 2026.



NCS Scholarship Window Is Open

Newman Catholic Schools is accepting scholarship applications through Sunday, April 30. Scholarship applications are open to all NCS

students and are broken up by grade level. For more information, or to fill out an application, visit the NCS website.

Edelburg Trades Basketball Playbook for Lesson Plans

By: Jackson Varline

Ben Edelburg is a first year physical education teacher at Newman Catholic Middle and High School. When Mr. Edelburg is not teaching at Newman, he is professionally training basketball athletes. Mr. Edelburg has coached high school basketball and AAU basketball.

Mr. Edelburg said that his hardest transition to Newman Catholic Schools was having the same schedule everyday.

"I am used to a fluctuating schedule of waking up at different times prior to working here at Newman," he said. "Some days I would have to wake up at 6 a.m. and others I would wake up later. Now I have to wake up early at the same time every morning."

Mr. Edelburg said the wonderful people he gets to work with everyday and the wonderful students he gets to teach are the best parts about Newman.

"Newman is always working on improving and getting better for the kids," he said. "When they asked me to come help at Newman, I was happy to because of the great kids and adults that are present."

Model UN To Meet

Model United Nations will meet several times over the next few weeks. All Model UN members should plan to meet in Mr. Moore's room during community period Friday, February 24, Monday, March 6, and Tuesday, March 14.



Mr. Edelburg demonstrates an exercise in the weight room for freshman Gavin Boyle Wednesday, February 15.

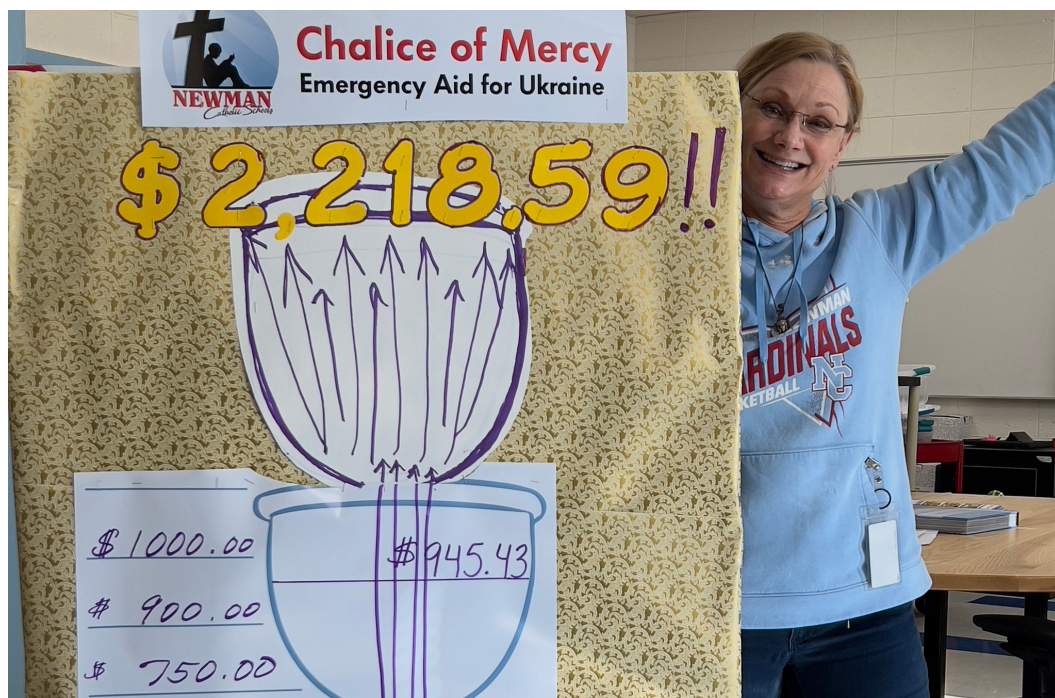
The students at a school are a vital part of a teachers job.

"There are no bad kids in this

school; they are all good kids," Mr.

Edelburg said. "The kids are all respectful and high quality."

Students Exceed Fundraising Goal



Choir director Patricia Rougeot gives students at Newman Catholic Middle and High School a cheer after they doubled the goal set the Catholic Schools Week challenge. All funds will be given to Chalice of Mercy, which provides Emergency Aid for Ukraine. (Photograph provided by Jill Mabry)

From the English Department... A Poem Analysis

Students in the Advanced Placement (AP) Literature and Composition course at Newman Catholic High School have been covering a unit on poetry analysis. Students in the class complete weekly assignments where they must read a given poem and complete an analysis and reflection.

AP Literature and Composition requires a great deal of internalizing, evaluating, and mimicking poetic techniques in poetry. One of the essay questions on the AP exam will contain a poetic work. Many of the multiple choice questions also pertain to poetry. Students must be able to both critically evaluate and analyze poetry.

I chose this poem analysis because it is a good example of how someone can use less words to say more. Many students think that the more they write, the better their point is. The reality is that unnecessary words make writing like this far more difficult to follow.

-Anthony Noll, AP Literature and Composition teacher

Dream Deferred

By Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

By Natalie Townsend, Grade 12

The poem, Dream Deferred, by Langston Hughes is a significant piece of literature for the black community. Langston Hughes was a black poet who expressed his feelings towards society through his writing. In this poem, he describes what it is like to focus on a career and personal life in a white dominated world. To help explain the theme of being denied the opportunity to fulfill one's dreams, the author uses literary devices like imagery, similes, and rhyming. Vivid imagery is used throughout the poem to engage the senses and help the reader picture exactly what Hughes feels by not being able to follow his dreams. For example, "Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun," (line 2). By being able to clearly see, touch, and taste a raisin, the reader is able to empathize with the author. To help the reader follow along and comprehend, the author uses similes so comparisons can be made. In the poem, the feeling of disappointment is compared to a sore that is oozing, even going to the extent of "stinking like rotten meat" (line 6).

To express that it does not become tolerable ever, the author continues describing the denied dream to become a heavy load rather than a syrupy sweet. To get his point across further, he uses rhyming in every other line, "like a heavy load, or does it explode" (line 10). This last line is important because it shows that being discriminated against and having these prejudices in society against black people will not be tolerated forever. One day, the bottled up anger will explode.

I thought this poem was very moving and interesting. It is a great representation of the life black people have to live. The imagery is very effective and causes the reader to really think about what they are reading. The author was able to put these deep feelings into an easy to follow writing. My favorite line was "Or crust and sugar over" (line 7). It is a great way to explain that for some a deferred dream is not the worst and does become tolerable, maybe even sweet.

Varsity Basketball Season Winds Down

The Newman Catholic High School varsity boys and girls basketball seasons are winding down.

The girls played their last regular season game Thursday evening, February 16. The Lady Cardinals defeated the Tigers 62-54.

Playoffs for the girls team will begin Tuesday, February 21 at 7p.m. with a home game against Gresham. The winner of that game will advance

to play the winner of the game between Edgar and Tigerton.

The boys team will play Friday, February 17 at Marathon and will finish out the regular season at Stratford Thursday, February 23.

