

SPRING 2023

NEWMAN *Connection*

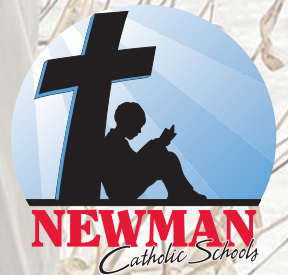
NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & ALUMNI

Inside

FATHER SAM MARTIN
FATHER JESSE BURISH
MARY HART
ANNA MCCARTY
MISSION TRIP
LINDA WAGNER
SONJA GASPER
CLASS OF 2023
DAVID RADTKE
STUDENT ACTIVITIES
CITIZENSHIP ESSAY



Fostering Disciples of Christ Through Catholic Faith, Service and Academics



The President's Message

Dear Friends of Newman Catholic Schools,

On behalf of Newman Catholic Schools' (NCS) students, families, faculty and staff, Education Commission and NCS Finance Committee, welcome to Newman Catholic Schools' constituent magazine. NCS is very excited to use this publication to reach out to our current families, alumni and supporters to share the wonderful things taking place at Newman Catholic Schools.

There is a great amount of tradition at Newman Catholic Schools: tradition of faith, service and academics. This tradition is why our Mission Statement, "Fostering disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics," has been adopted as Newman Catholic's guiding message. The three tenants lead us in everything we do at Newman. They serve as our focus and direction.

As we enter the season of Lent, we prepare to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. This is a time when we focus on our prayerfulness and sacrifice, replicating the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert.

As a community of faith, Newman Catholic Schools recently celebrated Catholic Schools Week. The week was full of activities dedicated to renewing our relationship with God and celebrating Catholic education. NCS celebrated with other Wausau area Catholic schools with an all schools Mass, which was celebrated with Bishop William Callahan.

Even though costs associated with providing a Catholic education are rising, a Catholic education is still possible for our students thanks to those who support Newman's Annual Fund campaign and offer other forms of financial support. Newman Catholic Schools' supporters assisted the system in providing tuition assistance for the 2022-2023 school year, and this school year students were awarded \$225,000.00 in aid. This is remarkable, as alumni and supporters from across the country continue to believe in the importance of Catholic education. Support does not stop there. Our local parishes and clergy are strong supporters of the mission of Newman Catholic Schools. These partnerships assist in making NCS a first-class choice for our youth. We are truly blessed to have so many caring in many ways.

Many Lenten Blessings!

JEFF GULAN, PRESIDENT

Newman Catholic Schools



Faith





Message from the Dean

FATHER SAM MARTIN

*“When the days for his being taken up were fulfilled, Jesus resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem.”
(Luke 9:51)*

Lent is a spiritual season that enhances life, or at least it's meant to do so. As the passage above implies, determination is a key to living a life of integrity. Jesus fulfills the Old Testament prophecy from Isaiah, who refers to Jesus when he wrote, "Therefore I have set my face like flint," (Isaiah 50:7). Jesus is a leader. He knows where He is going, and there is nothing in this world that will stop Him. Catholic schools proclaim to the world that they produce leaders. And that is a staunch claim. After all, we live in a world drowning in managers. Managers are predictable in that they seek to control things. Control usually boils down to fear. Managers are reactionary, not visionary. Jesus was a leader, and His insistence on going to a place that would cost His life makes it clear that He was not afraid.

Catholic schools claim to produce the future leaders of our communities and of our world. Minimally, we can rightfully claim that John Henry

Newman was a leader. Converting to Catholicism cost him dearly in terms of lost friendships and withdrawn opportunities. But he did it anyway. Leaders do the right thing at the right time, consequences be hanged. Newman was canonized a saint, in part because he was courageous and followed his conscience instead of the crowd. Our Newman Catholic Schools

aspire to hire leaders like that. Moreover, we seek to cultivate in our students the virtues that prepare them to set their faces like flint when adversity confronts them in the years to come. Maybe Saint Joan of Arc said it best, "I was born for this, and so I am unafraid." May God bless Newman Catholic Schools with leaders who have the courage and compassion of Christ!

Jesus was a leader, and His insistence on going to a place that would cost His life makes it clear that He was not afraid.

Lent, a season for renewal, is a time for our Catholic community to celebrate as one and prepare their hearts and spirit for Easter. Throughout Lent, students will observe the season in ways that will help renew and strengthen their relationship with God as they remember the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us all.

Daily Prayer

Weekly Mass and Prayer Services

Stations of the Cross

Service Project

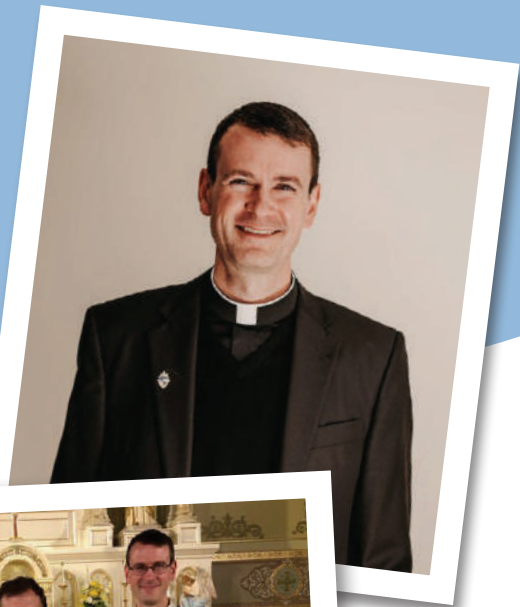
Almsgiving

Reconciliation

Class of 2000

FATHER JESSE BURISH

Reflecting on His Journey to Priesthood



"The greatest use of life is to spend it on something that outlasts it," said William James, a 19th century American philosopher. As I looked back to my high school yearbook, that was the quotation I picked to go below my senior year photo. I don't remember where I found the quotation, and then as now, I didn't even know that much about William James. While the quotation isn't necessarily a religious one, as I reflect on my life and vocation since high school, it did indeed capture what I believed to be true, and it conveys what has been my motivation for the last 22 years.

My name is Father Jesse Burish, and I'm a Newman graduate from the class of 2000. I currently serve as the pastor of Notre Dame, Holy Ghost, and St. Bridget Parishes, informally known as Our Lady of the Falls Catholic Community in Chippewa Falls. I've also been serving as Dean of the Chippewa Falls Deanery, where I continue to be engaged in the good work of Catholic education in our diocese with McDonell Area Catholic Schools.



After I graduated from Newman High School, I went to study architecture at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Being an architect had been my dream career since I was in the seventh grade. As much as I was determined to carry out that dream, however, I still felt the Lord at times pulling at my heart as the idea of priesthood was brought up by various priests and teachers at Newman who asked me to consider it. By the end of my second year of college in Milwaukee, I realized that I needed to further explore the possibility that I had a priestly vocation. If I was indeed being invited by God to this, I concluded, I should not procrastinate. The following fall I entered college seminary to better discern what God was asking me to do. To make a long story short, I had enough peace to complete college seminary and go onto major seminary in Rome. By God's grace, I was ordained a priest for the Diocese of La Crosse on June 27, 2009.

Reflecting on it, what drew me most to the priesthood was a growing fascination with the mystery of the Mass and the growing sense that the priesthood had an impact on the world that was eternal and transcended my own personal skills, abilities and plans. I remembered from the prayer of St. John Henry Newman, which my classmates and I committed to memory our freshman year of high school, that "God has created me to do him some definite service." For every person, that service is different. We must strive to listen to God, be open to His will, and consider what matters most in eternity, i.e. what the best use of our life is and what in the service of God outlasts it.

"God has created me to do him some definite service."





Catholic Schools Week All Schools Mass

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2, 2023



Thank you to Bishop William Callahan for leading our community in celebration of Newman Catholic Schools' All Schools Mass. It was a beautiful celebration of faith that brought students from across the Wausau Deanery together in one voice and with one heart to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Service





MARY HART

*A Life of Service within
Newman Catholic Schools*

Every day as I enter school, there is a banner that greets us all. It points out that this is a place of faith, service and academics. It shows pictures of our students demonstrating these values. Each day, as I pass this banner, I am reminded that our mission is to live these values and pass them along to our children.

As a first grade teacher, I am fortunate that my students have a way of taking important ideas and making them simple and easy to follow. We pray, learn and love others. These are the things that make a six-year-old very happy.

Prayer is an important part of the day. We spend time listening and talking to God. They love to hear Gospel stories and ask questions like, "How big is a mustard seed?" or "What is a bushel basket?" The Bible stories give us plenty of opportunity for vocabulary development, and with each story, we grow closer to God.

Learning is every minute of our day! There is a magical power in learning to read, making a connection with numbers, and solving story problems or doing an experiment to figure out what chlorophyll is. Our first grade motto is, "We never waste a minute! There is always something to learn!"

Then there is the most important part of our day, and it is to love others. Our children are fortunate to be surrounded by models of service. On the way to music class, we pass the Circle of Joy pantry and see the ladies packing grocery bags of food to feed the hungry. We look out our window and see Margaret pedaling her bike with a wagon in tow, filled with flowers from her garden that will be used to decorate the church. The children line up for class pictures on the ramp in front of the newly landscaped school thanks to one of the school parents and her brother who spent many late hours replacing rock just to make our school

a more beautiful place. Then there are the teachers who model service all day long. When I arrive at school at 6:30 am each morning, I am the fourth person to get to school. The principal and teachers come hours early just to make sure that all is ready for the children to have the best day possible.

The greatest moments in our week are when prayer, learning and service are joined together in our school liturgies. When the children know how to read an intercession, get the opportunity to bring gifts to the altar, and join in prayer and song, the children feel great pride.

Our Catholic schools are so special because we understand that God created us to pray, learn and love others. God sent his Son, Jesus, to be our greatest model and show us how to love. Therefore, when we pray, learn and love others, we find peace and great joy.



*Our children are surrounded
by models of service, and
therefore, service springs
forth from our children.*



Living her faith has always had a special place in Anna McCarty's heart and has been a guiding force in the paths she has chosen.

Embracing the Catholic faith was never a question in Anna's family. It was not forced upon them, but it was a simple and true part of their lives. Anna and her siblings grew up witnessing their parents growing together in faith and offering unwavering devotion to each other and God. The McCarty family has always taken the time to celebrate their faith together, and the strong, Catholic foundation that Anna received helped her to be a true disciple for Jesus Christ.

Homeschooled through 8th grade, Anna entered Newman Catholic High School (NCHS) at 9th grade. The transition was a positive experience that challenged her in new ways and opened her eyes to the beauty of education. She credits this to all of her teachers but especially remembers how Mr. Barbella, calculus teacher, helped students understand the concepts of concrete, solid truth, which strengthened her belief in good. Mrs. McRoberts, A.P. English & Language, had a wonderful way of helping students comprehend and find deeper meaning in literature and to find elements which helped them be affected by the content.

While at NCHS, Anna learned the virtues of hard work, discipline, and how to use time wisely, practical skills that translated outside of the halls of Newman. High school is a time of questioning, which can be difficult, but Anna found that a strong spiritual life and being challenged through academics and athletics was truly beneficial.

The foundation of a Newman Catholic education served her well while at



Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. A Catholic university, faith was woven into all aspects of education. Theology courses were required of all students. Even within the political science tract, courses focused on the "Why" and how faith can help guide our political and moral compass. While at Franciscan, the Lord took any doubt she may have felt in high school and helped her shape it into something beautiful. Anna was surrounded by goodness: in the friends she made, in the classroom and on multiple mission trips. Seeing everyone's dedication to their faith moved her.

Upon graduating in 2018 with a B.A. in Political Science, Anna took on an internship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). When the internship ended, Anna moved home and unexpectedly found her calling, helping youth deepen their relationship with God.

She learned of a Director of Youth Formation position at St. Bronislava Church in Plover, Wisconsin. Though it wasn't a path she had expected, the Holy Spirit truly works in mysterious ways because she found herself interested in the position and spent the next three years teaching CCD and Confirmation classes. Teaching led her to deepen her faith and find true joy in helping students encounter Christ and open their hearts. Anna now teaches religion to 8th graders and upper classmen within the Assumption Catholic Schools system in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.

When asked to reflect on her journey thus far, Anna shared, "That everyone's faith journey is unique. How they get there is less important than accepting that the trials, doubts, and sufferings that each of us experience, though difficult, are necessary to help bring us closer to God because they help us feel His love, forgiveness and healing. Let God's grace help lift us up and help guide us."

Mission Trip To Princeton, Illinois

Class of 2002

AVA SUKANEN




At the beginning of July 2022, youth from St. Anne Parish and Holy Name of Jesus Parish came together in service to others during a weeklong mission trip to Princeton, Illinois.

As members of their parishes, seven Newman Catholic Schools students joined their peers to experience living out their faith at Group Catholic Workcamps. This service opportunity is designed to help students deepen the love they have for their faith as they connect service and justice activities to their relationship with Jesus.

In the words of NCS student Ava Sukanen, Class of 2024: "The mission trip to Princeton, Illinois this summer was an amazing experience. We were able to serve the community in such a special way by fixing up our residents' homes. I was so blessed to have had the crew that I did. We quickly became close friends and were able to have so much fun together building a ramp for our resident. It was a lot of hard work, but we enjoyed getting to know each other while we worked. I especially enjoyed our daily crew devotions that allowed for us to have such great conversations about our faith. Our youth group was able to grow a lot closer during the trip. We had such fun and meaningful conversations during our nightly youth group devotions and our half-day hiking adventure. We also enjoyed hanging out with each other each day after we got back to camp. We would play nine-square, cards, and other games together with all the other kids at camp. I had so much fun meeting other people during our free time, and it allowed me to make a lot of new friends. Another great part of the work camp was the morning and evening programs. They were a time when everyone was all together in the gym to play games, worship, and have fun growing in their faith. I think the coolest part was the worship because it was such a unique and inspiring experience to be surrounded by so many other faith-filled youth singing in praise. Mission trips are such amazing experiences not only because of the service, but because of the people you meet and inspiring stories of faith you encounter. The week impacted my life in so many beautiful ways, and I feel so blessed to have had such a fun time serving God and growing in my faith."



Summer Youth Mission Trip

 July 8-15, 2023

 Mission, South Dakota

Register and More Info at:

www.stanneswausau.org/missiontrips



Academics



Alumni Teacher Spotlight

LINDA WAGNER

I often feel that the Newman system is in my blood. Perhaps that is because I was part of the Newman Catholic Schools system long before it was even a thing.

I was born and raised in Wausau, baptized at St. Anne church, and remain a lifelong member of the parish. I attended St. Anne parish school for grades 1-8. I had a wonderful childhood with many fond memories of my grade school days, including walking home from school, skipping along, singing "They'll Know We are Christians" with my older sister and our neighborhood friend. Along with my loving parents, many marvelous teachers, including religious sisters and lay teachers, formed my early years.

After graduating from 8th grade, I attended and graduated from Newman Catholic High School. I then attended UW-Marathon Center and UW-Stevens Point, graduating with a degree in elementary education with a

concentration in math. At that time, unlike the current situation, teachers were a dime a dozen, so getting a job wasn't immediate. After substitute teaching in many Wausau area schools, both public and parochial, I was drawn back to the Newman Catholic Schools system. I felt then, as I do now, that teaching was not only a job for me, but my vocation. I was hired at St. Michael School and was teaching there when the Catholic schools in the area consolidated as Wausau Area Catholic Schools (WACS). As time went on, WACS consolidated even further, becoming Newman Catholic Schools.

When I interviewed for my current position at NCES: St. Anne, it was my first time back in the academic area of the building since graduating from 8th grade. Many rooms had been repurposed and different personnel staffed the building, but there was

definitely a familiarity about being back, like being reunited with a long-lost friend. I was hired for the 3rd grade position that I still hold today.

I have gotten to know so many wonderful families and colleagues and am honored to have worked with a plethora of students who shared my classroom with me over the years! The Newman Catholic Schools system is truly a part of my being.



Outcome-Based Instruction

SONJA GASPER

Science Department

During conferences I am often met with the question, "How is my child doing?" This often leads to the expectation that I will describe how pleasant their child is and what they could do to improve their grades. Instead, I often redirect the question by inviting students to tell their parents what they have learned. My intent is not to avoid having to give a glowing review, but rather refocus the purpose of the meeting to something more important. What does your child know as a result of their time with me; have they met their science outcomes?

Outcome-based education is not a new concept. At Newman Catholic Schools, we say it is a given or agreed-upon description of what students should know and/or be able to do. Typically these descriptions are started with a verb and are simple to assess for understanding. An example of a biology outcome would be as follows: Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the structure of DNA determines the structure of proteins which carry out the essential functions of life. (Next Generation Science Standards)

Note the outcome begins with a verb, defining what the student should be able to do and outlining the specific learning objective. As a teacher, this gives me the freedom to create a curriculum that engages students toward achieving that goal. I may have first year students create 3D models while my college students would analyze an academic paper on genetic engineering. The outcome is the same, but the method and level of instruction changes depending on the class. These parameters make designing and grading an assessment easier as students know what they are being tested on, and teachers, such as myself, have clear evidence to the level of their understanding.

Outcome-based education is the framework by which we measure levels of understanding in order to make continual improvements to our teaching. Our goal at Newman is to produce knowledgeable adults who will solve real world problems in the future.



Senior Reflection

Class of 2023

KARI SEVERSON & NATALIE BRENNER



During these last few months as Fighting Cardinals, the students in the Class of 2023 are actively preparing for our future college experiences and careers. We have grown so much during our time together and have made lasting friendships and memories.

As we begin to look ahead to our graduation from high school, we remember all the teachers, role models, classmates, and experiences that have shaped us into who we are today. Our teachers, both past and present, have taught us to do our best, learn from our mistakes, and maintain strong character as evidenced by our words and actions towards others. Our parents have guided us through every aspect of life. They recognized the importance of an education in the Newman Catholic Schools system and raised us in an environment that promoted both a strong education and a foundation in virtue. Our classmates have become not only our friends but our chosen family. We have journeyed through high school together, and we have countless memories of one another that will remain for the rest of our lives. Through the ups and downs of high school, our class has learned that we are a group filled with intelligence, kindness, and unique individuals united to persevere through any obstacles we may face.

As our class moves forward into the next chapter of our lives, we will surely continue to make an impact on everyone we meet. No matter where life takes us, we will always have our shared history and experiences. We are hardworking, persistent, faithful, light-hearted, and united. We are the Newman Catholic High School Class of 2023!

Congratulations TO THE CLASS OF 2023!

James Bates
Thomas Bates
Natalie Brenner
Grace Carlson
Maria Christophersen
Michael Dembowski
Sidney Galang
Wyatt Gasper
Elijah Gustafson

Matthew Hamilton
Benjamin Hardesty
Conner Krach
Braedon Kroening
Damion Ladecki
Zongvikeng Lee
Destiny Lo
Caiden Nikolai

Jackson Pfender
Norah Polkinghorne
Mason Prey
Paige Reeves
Isaac Seidel
Karianna Severson
Ava Sobolewski
Ada Stenstrom
Owen Sullivan

Benjamin Swenson
Cheng Thao
Nicholas Thao
Natalie Townsend
Yod Vang
Jackson Varline
Margaret Wulf
Danisa Zenk

Legacy Through Generations

When the Class of 2023 graduates on May 26, 2023, they will become the school's newest class of Alumni, and will join their generations of family members who have graduated before them.

James Bates

Emily (Kieffer) Bates (Mother), Class of 2000
Kevin Kieffer (Grandpa), Class of 1980
Nancy (Guralski) Kieffer (Grandma), Class of 1981
Kathleen (Kieffer) Mathie (Great-aunt), Class of 1971
Sue (Guralski) Schroeder (Great-aunt), Class of 1971
Virgil Guralski (Great-uncle), Class of 1972
Karla Kieffer (Great-aunt), Class of 1979
Kealie (Kieffer) Beilke (Great-aunt), Class of 1989
Adam Kieffer (Cousin), Class of 2002
Sarah Beilke (Cousin), Class of 2013
Laura Beilke (Cousin), Class of 2015

Thomas Bates

Michael Burek (Grandpa), Class of 1961
Ellen (Palacek) Burek (Grandma), Class of 1962
Jane Palacek (Great-aunt), Class of 1965
Paul Palacek (Great-uncle), Class of 1967
Peter Burek (Great-uncle), Class of 1973
Andrew Bates (Brother), Class of 2016
Benjamin Bates (Brother), Class of 2020

Natalie Brenner

Nicholas Brenner (Brother), Class of 2021

Maria Christophersen

Dena (Stella) Christophersen (Mother), Class of 1995
Stephanie Stella (Aunt), Class of 1992

Wyatt Gasper

Garrett Gasper (Brother), Class of 2016
Sophia Gasper (Sister), Class of 2021

Elijah Gustafson

Jenifer (Nieuwenhuis) Hardel (Mother), Class of 1991
Chris Gustafson (Father), Class of 1993
Tom Nieuwenhuis (Grandpa), Class of 1958
Carol (Gehrke) Gustafson (Grandma), Class of 1970
Jay Nieuwenhuis (Uncle), Class of 1981
Kari Gustafson (Aunt), Class of 1998
Kati Gustafson (Aunt), Class of 1998
Madison Nieuwenhuis (Cousin), Class of 2015
Grace Nieuwenhuis (Cousin), Class of 2017

Matthew Hamilton

Lisa (Wagner) Brzezinski (Mother), Class of 1984
Andrew Wagner (Uncle), Class of 1979
Mark Wagner (Uncle), Class of 1983
Peter Oettinger (Uncle), Class of 1988
Rebecca (Wagner) Oettinger (Aunt), Class of 1988
Abby Hamilton (Sister), Class of 2014
Jenny Hamilton (Sister), Class of 2017

Conner Krach

Kenzie Krach (Sister), Class of 2019

Zongvikeng Lee

Mai Kou Lee (Sister), Class of 2003
Fong Lee (Brother), Class of 2005
Beeshoua Lee (Sister), Class of 2007
Lashia Lee (Brother), Class of 2009
Nilai Lee (Brother), Class of 2010
Thayeng Lee (Brother), Class of 2012
Chija Lee (Sister), Class of 2019

Destiny Lo

Lor Pao Lor (Uncle), Class of 1997
Taphongyue Lo (Brother), Class of 2014
Kueloua Lo (Brother), Class of 2015
XueZong Lo (Brother), Class of 2017
Desirae Lo (Brother), Class of 2020
Lor Pao Lor (Uncle), Class of 1997

Caiden Nikolai

Sharon (Rogan) Nikolai (Aunt), Class of 1964
Madeline Nikolai (Sister), Class of 2020
Hannah Nikolai (Sister), Class of 2022

Jackson Pfender

Michelle (Pfender) Gress (Stepmom), Class of 2003
Sherman Gress (Step-grandpa), Class of 1966
Marjorie (Capista) Gress (Step-grandma), Class of 1969
Jeff Gress (Step-uncle), Class of 1995
Angie (Gress) Rozwadowski (Step-aunt), Class of 1996
Steve Gress (Step-uncle), Class of 1999

Norah Polkinghorne

Dan Buedding (Uncle), Class of 1986
Tara (Messenberg) Buedding (Aunt), Class of 1986

Mason Prey

Jim Prey (Father), Class of 1989

Paige Reeves

Debra (Behring) Legenza (Great-aunt), Class of 1975
Amber (Legenza) Sopota (Cousin), Class of 2002
Sara (Legenza) Matushak (Cousin), Class of 2005
Brittney (Legenza) Reiter (Cousin), Class of 2008
Maria Legenza (Cousin), Class of 2012
Quinn Reeves (Brother), Class of 2021

Isaac Seidel

Julia Seidel (Sister), Class of 2020

Owen Sullivan

Shawn Sullivan (Father), Class of 1991
Robert Sullivan (Grandpa), Class of 1964
Linda (Leonard) Sullivan (Grandma), Class of 1968
Stanley Wesolowski (Great-uncle), Class of 1965
Richard Leonard (Great-uncle), Class of 1969
John Sullivan (Great-uncle), Class of 1971
James Sullivan (Great-uncle), Class of 1976
Barb (Sullivan) Mesenberg (Great-aunt), Class of 1977
Colleen (Sullivan) Rueger (Great-aunt), Class of 1981
Robert Sullivan (Uncle), Class of 1989
Brooke (Mesenberg) Wendorf (Cousin), Class of 1999
Brittany (Rueger) Disher (Cousin), Class of 2002
Brady Mesenberg (Cousin), Class of 2002
Brittany (Rueger) Disher (Cousin), Class of 2002

Natalie Townsend

Taylor Townsend (Sister), Class of 2009
Jordan Townsend (Brother), Class of 2013
Tabby Townsend (Sister), Class of 2016

Jackson Varline

Benjamin Varline (Brother), Class of 2012
William Varline (Brother), Class of 2015
Harrison Varline (Brother), Class of 2017

Margaret Wulf

Connor Wulf (Brother), Class of 2018
Gavin Wulf (Brother), Class of 2021



From Early Childhood to Graduation

As Newman Catholic Schools is a system that focuses on education from early childhood to graduation, we celebrate the legacy that many of this year's seniors have forged as being part of the Newman family since their earliest school years. Newman Catholic Schools is built on legacy, not just through alumni generations but connections within each student's personal journey.

ST. ANNE

Natalie Brenner
 Sydney Galang
 Elijah Gustafson
 Matthew Hamilton
 Destiny Lo
 Jackson Pfender
 Mason Prey
 Paige Reeves
 Isaac Seidel
 Ava Sobolewski
 Owen Sullivan
 Jackson Varline

ST. MARK

Thomas Bates
 Braedon Kroening
 Benjamin Swenson
 Danisa Zenk

ST. MICHAEL

Maria Christophersen
 Norah Polkinghorne
 Karianna Severson
 Ada Stenstrom



Looking Back on the Seniors' Journey

KERI WULF

NCMS/HS Guidance Counselor

Seven years. The time it takes a student to complete 6th grade through 12th grade. Middle school and high school. Pre-adolescence to young adulthood. It is also the amount of time it takes a brand new school counselor to witness an exceedingly eager and wholly endearing sixth grade come to fruition as high school seniors. As the end of their journey nears, many questions surface in my mind. Where did the time go? Did we do everything in our power to develop and support these students during their time at Newman? Are they socially, emotionally, and academically

prepared for what comes next? Are they ready to step into the world as disciples of Christ?

Many of these questions can only be answered by the students themselves, but as I reflect on the Class of 2023, I will always remember that this group of students loves to have a good time. They attend and actively cheer at school sporting events and love their "comfy" dress days (a remnant of COVID?). Though they are all very different, they all seem to have a place in their class and seem to truly love their school. This year's senior class is very service-oriented. At this point in their high school journey, college acceptances have been received, scholarships are applied for, and resume building is done, but the seniors still seek out opportunities to give back. Not for recognition but truly from the heart. Recently I had the pleasure of working with a group of seniors on the Jubilee House meal at St. Matthew Parish. This is a free community meal which students helped prepare and serve. Not only did they show up on time but immediately

asked, "how can I help?" Most importantly, they treated the guests with dignity and respect. I have never been prouder of a group of students representing our school.

Personally, I have a strong connection to this group of students. Not only were they my first sixth grade class, but my youngest child is part of this cohort. I was a Girl Scout leader for 10 of the 13 girls in the Class of 2023 from kindergarten through fifth grade. Two-thirds of this group moved throughout the 6-12 years together, and most of those went to elementary school together. What a journey they have been on together. So back to my original questions...I don't know where the time went; it often escapes us! It is my firm belief that the teachers and staff at Newman Catholic Middle and High School more than honored their vocation to foster disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics over the past seven years. I believe we will soon come to witness that while the Class of 2023 may have had to endure many trials, they received the tools they needed. They are ready, and I look forward to watching their futures unfold!



Class of 2002

DAVID RADTKE'S STORY

A Newman Family Legacy

It's August of 2014 and David Radtke is sitting at the desk in the classroom where he teaches at Newman Catholic High School. He looks out on the school's front lawn and sees the tree that was donated in honor of Mr. Stella, the husband of a beloved teacher. This tree holds great meaning for Dave because it was donated by the class of 2002, his graduating class. Sitting there looking at the tree, Dave finds himself reflecting on the path his life had taken and how his family's deep connections to Newman Catholic Schools helped shape his journey from student to faculty member.

Those connections began generations ago with Dave's uncle, Ronald Gajewski, who was a member of the class of 1961. As part of one of Newman's earliest classes, Ron graduated with great pride in his school and with a strong belief in Catholic education. Wanting similar opportunities for their own children, Ron and his wife chose to send Mike, class of 1983, John, class of 1986, and Therese,

class of 1992, through the Catholic school system. The connection continued when Therese chose Catholic education for her own children, Sarah, Grace and Ava. In addition to the three generations on his mother's side, Dave also had a cousin on his father's side, Jessica (Lato) Steckling, who graduated from Newman Catholic High School in 1997.

Though Dave's parents did not attend Catholic schools, witnessing their nieces and nephews have the experiences they hoped for their son made sending Dave on the Wausau Catholic Schools' (now Newman Catholic Schools) path an easy decision.

From the very beginning of kindergarten, Dave remembers feeling welcomed by the teachers and the principal, Mr. Dev Quandt. That comforting and loving feeling stayed with him throughout elementary and middle school and was solidified during high school when Dr. Carolyn Beckman, NHS principal, made a huge impact on his life. During Dave's senior year, his father was diagnosed with cancer, which caused some financial hardship.

As a student, Dave felt this most when he almost had to skip his senior retreat due to cost, but Dr. Beckman ensured he did not miss out. Her only request; "You don't need to repay it with money, just make sure to pay it back to Newman when you are able." Dr. Beckman's kindness stayed with him and helped shape his future, a future as a Newman Catholic Schools educator.

The kindness of Dr. Beckman and the guidance from teachers, especially Mr. Quandt and Mrs. Roxy Betchwars, influenced his desire to go into education and help shape students' lives. What a perfect way to pay it back to Newman. Dave joined the Newman faculty in 2014 and spent two years in the classroom, even teaching one of his younger cousins, Sarah Sukanen, class of 2018. Though life took him away from Newman for a few years, he rejoined the Newman Catholic Schools team in 2021 as the IT Coordinator. The IT role has allowed him to stay connected with students and faculty in a creative and innovative way.

The best part of rejoining NCS is that Dave gets to play a role in his son's education, even attending weekly Mass with Robert at NCES: St. Anne. When Robert, class of 2033, was born, Dave and his wife, Iris, knew that they wanted him to receive a Catholic education. After experiencing such a positive journey through the Newman system, Dave wanted the same for his son. He wanted Robert to thrive in a caring environment where he would be more than just a number. They knew they made the right decision when they saw the absolute joy on Robert's face when he learned that his dad attended kindergarten in the same classroom, and that two of his dad's former teachers, Mrs. Stella and Mrs. Paprocki, still fill in as substitute teachers when needed. What a beautiful connection indeed!



Student Clubs & Organizations

High School
Pep Band



NCS Ski Club



Model UN



Math League



Middle School Yearbook Committee



Student
Ambassadors



Middle School
Student Council



Members of the
Middle School
Forensics Team



Campus
Ministry Team



High School Choir



National
Honor Society



Safety Patrol



A student's educational journey reaches far beyond the walls of the classroom to the teams and clubs that they are able to join. It is within these co-curricular groups that students further develop their skills as leaders and learn how to work as a team. For athletes, this growth happens on the court or field, but for many students, they gain these experiences through academic and service clubs. Newman Catholic Schools is blessed to be able to offer many opportunities for students and is always looking for new opportunities that encourage the students to challenge themselves.

THANK YOU TO THE ADVISORS AND COACHES WHO HELP THE STUDENTS SUCCEED!

Cardinals Giving Back

Soccer at Feed My Starving Children



Volleyball Dig Pink



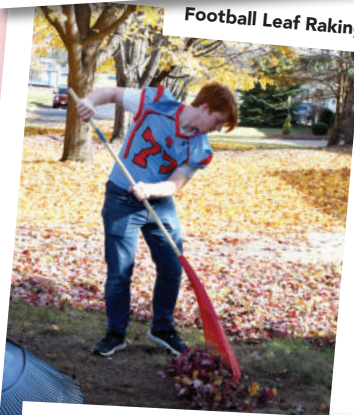
Soccer Helping at St. Agnes



Soccer Helping at St. Agnes



Football Leaf Raking



Basketball at Jubilee House

Volleyball Dig Pink



Basketball Bell Ringing



Basketball at Jubilee House



Soccer at Feed My Starving Children



Football Loading Up for Winter Wonderland



Football Helping a Family Move



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CITIZENSHIP ESSAY

“How Can We as Catholics Evangelize Our Family and Friends Who Have Turned Away From the Church?”

9TH GRADE - 1ST PLACE ESSAY SUBMISSION

Written By: Camille Sobolewski, Class of 2026

God works in mysterious ways. Sometimes you may not like the way God does things, but we still need to have faith. Unfortunately, some people lose faith completely. These people then have so much hatred towards God, based on another problem in their life. The problem can be something major like losing a family member, getting into a terrible car crash, or suffering from a disease. But all of these things should make you want to get even closer to God. Even though some people feel like they will never be close to God again, this can always change if we step in to help.

If someone we know and love has turned away from religion, we can sit down with them and ask why. We can listen to them and validate their emotions or feelings to this subject, but find a good place to start telling them that God is not to blame for whatever is going on. Talk to them positively, and not negatively about how they feel. We can offer them options of talking to a priest, a family member, or another Catholic person about how they feel. We can make sure to include ourselves as an option, continue to give them lots of love and support, and be there for them whenever they need it.

It is also important to take action. Instead of just talking to them, we can offer to go to Mass with them, have a bible study group together, or have a prayer day with them. Doing these things with them will show how strong your faith is, and will make them want to be like you, in a sense. Plus, it is easier to do these activities with another person, instead of being alone.

Next, we can create a fun routine with them. Having a routine helps to decrease stress, unmotivated feelings, and helps with mental health. We can form this routine with them. We can make sure to include things they love to do, exercise, time with God, and a consistent wake-up and bedtime. This routine will help them to feel like they have a purpose in life, through God.

We can volunteer with them. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and help out the community. Volunteering will give them a good feeling and make them want to do more for God and the community. Before volunteering with them, we should tell them not to go into it thinking you are just helping some people. We should go into it with the intention of having fun, learning more about people who might be in a different situation, and spending time with God.

Lastly, we have to make sure to check up on them frequently. They are going to have days that are awesome, when they completely feel like they believe in God again. They are also going to have horrible days, when they question their faith again. We can make sure to support them through these confusing times, tell them to reach out to us whenever they want to talk, and make sure to offer other sources to reach out to.

8TH GRADE - 1ST PLACE ESSAY SUBMISSION

Written By: Alexis Rice, Class of 2027

How can I evangelize my faith to family and friends who have turned away from religion and encourage them to return to the church and embrace the sacraments?

One way that I can evangelize my faith to my friends and family is to pray. I can pray for them and maybe over time with them. I believe that if I pray for them they might feel compelled to turn to God. Another way that I can evangelize my faith to others is asking them to go to church with me. If they don't want to do that it is okay but if I offer they might know that it's an option and that I am always available to go with them. If they choose to go they might really enjoy it and want to go again. They also might feel peace if they go, and keep going to church.

I can tell them about God by simply talking to them. I think it is easier to understand compared to just giving them a bible to read. Personally I think the bible can be confusing, so if I explain it more to them they might be a little more understanding. I also think going to a more modern church would be great because there are people closer to your age and you might be able to understand what they are talking about a lot more.

In my opinion I wouldn't try to force faith upon them. If they don't feel comfortable I wouldn't force them to listen to me about my faith. I believe that it is important to spread God's word but if they aren't interested I won't force it on them.

I also believe that being a role model and acting like a child of God is important because it shows them a great example to follow. If I am sinning all the time, people aren't going to think very good of me and they won't think that I am strong in my faith. So I think by showing them that I am, they might want to do the same.

I can tell them about God's plan! Who wouldn't be excited about that? I can tell them about what he did for us and how we are all saved. I can also talk to them about how he is coming back, and how he will always be there for us. Personally it brings me so much peace knowing that he will always forgive me and that he will always love me no matter what.

In conclusion there are many ways that I can evangelize my faith to my friends and my family, but I think a huge tip is being kind and relaxed about it and not forcing it upon them. You can pray for them, pray with them, go to church with them, etc. I think it is so important to spread his word and share his plan, so I believe using these methods would be great to use with your friends and family. I will always be accepting of their faith, but I will always be there if they want to learn more about God.



Fostering disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics.

Enroll now for the 2023-2024 school year!

Visit www.newmancatholicschools.com/enrollment

- Tuition assistance applications are available for:
 - Scholarships*
 - Grant Aid Program (GAP)*
 - Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)*

**All tuition assistance applications are open through April 20, 2023*

Visit www.newmancatholicschools.com/assistance to learn more.



Contact Jacci Lepak at jlepak@newmancatholicschools.com or (715) 845-5735 with questions.

Witness the Difference

Fostering disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics.

“ We appreciate the dedicated staff who truly care about each student. We enjoy being part of the greater Newman community where families become friends. We are confident that our children are getting a well-rounded education that will prepare them for future schooling and beyond.

Patrick and Mindy France



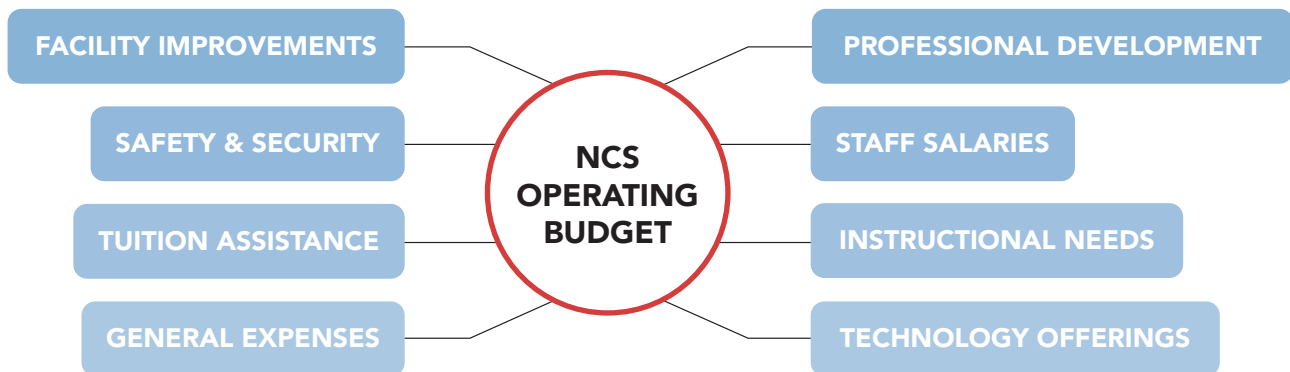
“ We believe Newman Catholic Schools provides our children the best education we can obtain. They are instilling in the children the values of discipline, hard work, love for knowledge, teamwork and a sense of belonging in a community. Lastly, the friendships that our children have made and the new families we have in our lives are irreplaceable, and what make the "Newman difference".

Steven and Leah Matuszewski

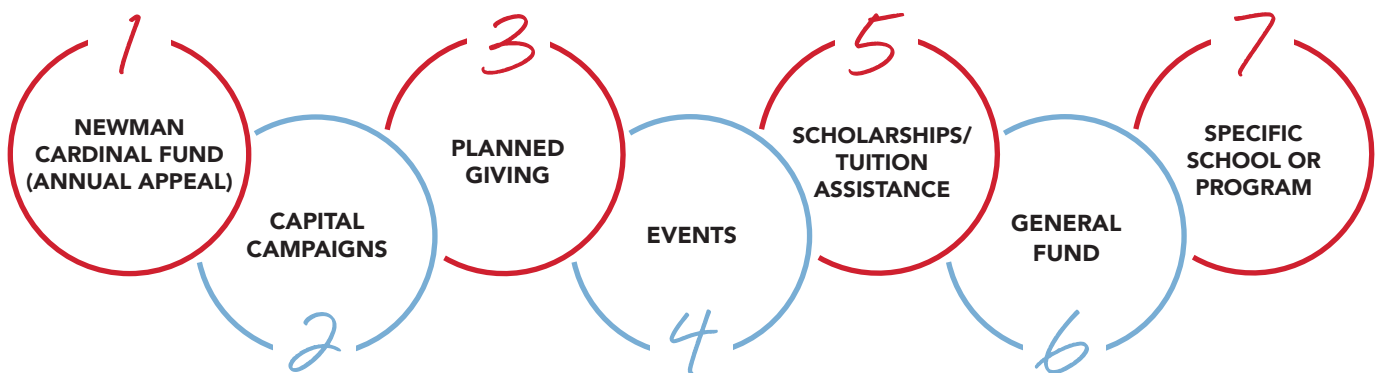
Donations & Scholarships

As a nonprofit educational system, Newman Catholic Schools (NCS) relies on three primary forms of financial support: parish subsidies, tuition payments and donations. NCS is blessed and thankful for its many benefactors, families and the local Catholic community who support the system to help ensure financial stability.

When choosing to support the Newman Catholic Schools system, it is important to know what your donation will fund and how those donations can be made. Every dollar donated to NCS directly supports the students, faculty and staff by helping fund all aspects of the operating budget.

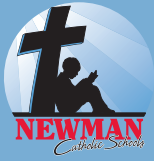


Donations can be made to a specific event, fund, or program that you would like to support, or you can choose to simply make a general donation. General donations allow the system to use the funds where most needed.



For more information on how you can support the students, faculty and staff of Newman Catholic Schools, contact Sarah Keene, Director of Advancement & Alumni, at 715-842-4805 or via email at skeene@newmancatholicschools.com.

**INVESTING IN STUDENTS' FUTURES TODAY
MEANS INVESTING IN THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW!**



NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to the families and organizations who have contributed to the Newman Catholic Schools Scholarship Program. The following scholarships are awarded each year to students from kindergarten through 12th grade to help make tuition payments more affordable.

- » St. Anne Fatima Council
- » Diocese of La Crosse – Bishop William P. Callahan
- » Mary T. Carlson Memorial
- » Catholic Daughters
- » Catholic Financial Life
- » Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin
- » Lucille & George Ferguson Memorial
- » Marlene J. & William I. Fredrich Memorial
- » George L. Geisler Education Endowment Trust
- » William L. Goggins Memorial
- » Sally M. Hattenhauer Scholarship
- » Randy Juley Memorial
- » Katie Kennedy Memorial
- » Steven Klos Memorial
- » Knights of Columbus Council, Wausau #1069
- » Frank & Johanna Liszewski Memorial
- » St. Mark Ladies Council
- » St. Matthew Parish
- » St. Matthew Soup Supper Committee
- » St. Michael Parish Endowment Trust
- » St. Therese Little Flower Council
- » Glen Mroczenski Memorial
- » Josephine Myszka Memorial
- » Robert & Ruby Neugebauer Memorial
- » Newman H.S. Class of 1961
- » Newman H.S. Class of 1963 – Jim & MaryKay DeBroux
- » Newman Catholic High School Home & School
- » Eugene & Jean Raphoon Memorial
- » Church of the Resurrection PCCW
- » Paul S. & Ruth M. Schultz Foundation
- » Marilyn Spletter Memorial
- » Harold & Ruth Tessmer Memorial
- » Fred Wakeman Memorial
- » Christopher Wallschlaeger Memorial
- » Richard Yaeger Educational Scholarship

How Can You Support Newman Catholic Schools?

Perhaps you have asked this question of yourself but don't know where to start. Maybe you have considered offering financial support, or volunteering your time or talent is your preferred way of giving back. No matter the path you would like to take, your support is needed and encouraged.

As a nonprofit organization, Newman Catholic Schools relies on the generosity of many to ensure that the system's mission is fulfilled, and NCS is truly grateful to its many supporters.

If you find yourself wanting to support NCS but don't know where to start, reach out to the Advancement & Alumni Department to find out where your support can best be used. The Advancement & Alumni team's primary focus is to help work with current and future supporters to help move the system's mission forward. Reach out and learn more about supporting:

1

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

2

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS - SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE GRANT & AID PROGRAM

3

PLANNED GIVING - REMEMBER NCS WHEN MAKING ESTATE PLANS

4

DEPARTMENT AND BUILDING NEEDS - SUPPORT SPECIFIC NEEDS OR PROJECTS

5

CO-CURRICULARS - SUPPORT SPECIFIC CLUBS OR ATHLETICS

6

TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS

7

SAFETY & SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

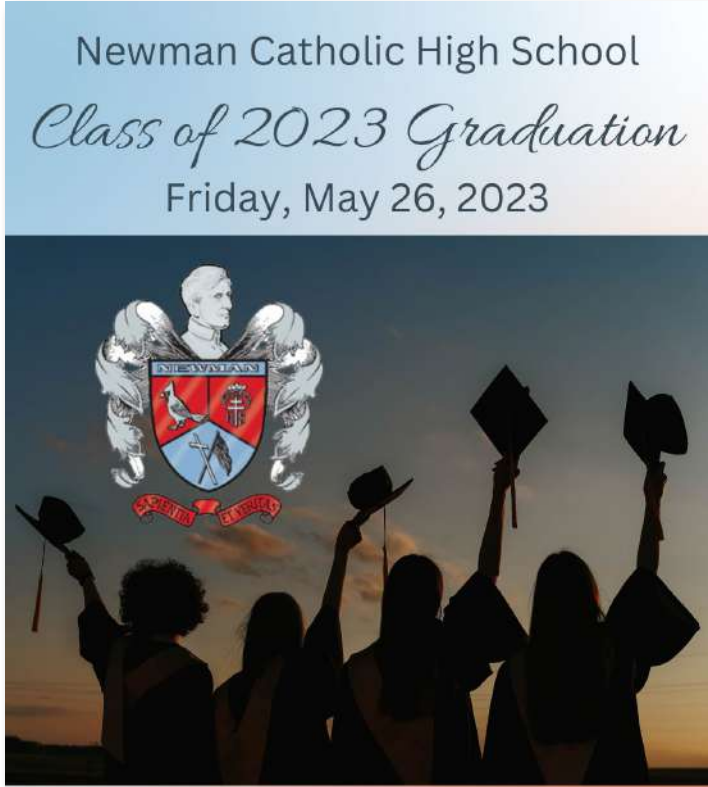
Together we can ensure Newman Catholic Schools continues to foster disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics.



Come on out to help support Newman Catholic Athletics.

Saturday, April 15, 2023
7:00 - 11:00 pm
\$30.00 Admission

All are invited to enjoy food, fun and community! Raffles, table games and live music for all to enjoy!



Congratulations Seniors!



Save The Date

Friday, July 21, 2023
Noon Shotgun Start



Information for sponsorships, donations and team sign up is coming soon!



Newman Catholic Schools
Advancement Office
1130 W Bridge Street
Wausau, WI 54401



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 648
Wausau, WI



St. Michael
615 Stark Street, Wausau
715-848-0206

Licensed Child Care,
Preschool, 4K



St. Therese
112 W. Kort Street, Schofield
715-355-5254

Licensed Child Care, 4K



St. Anne
604 N. 6th Avenue, Wausau
715-845-5754

Kindergarten - Gr. 5



St. Mark
602 Military Road, Rothschild
715-359-9662

Preschool, 4K
Kindergarten - Gr. 5



**Newman Catholic Middle &
High School**
1130 W. Bridge Street, Wausau
715-845-8274

Grades 6 – 12