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Cardinal Newman High School

Oxford Scholars

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Oxford Scholars Essay

As our Cardinal Newman campus grows and improves with the creation of new buildings and spaces for student and faculty alike, opportunities arise for these spaces to be used to their full potential. These spaces can be used for student activities to more effectively and fully use the building are now available. Cardinal Newman High School has always placed an emphasis on community, and by more fully using these spaces the school can foster the community that already exists. By using these new spaces for student activities, the school can improve every student's experience at Cardinal Newman and grow the already existing community.

The courtyard in the new classroom building area can better be used for student activities. In the past, Newman has used the courtyard to host dances. For the future, Cardinal Newman should go back to using the courtyard to host dances held in the fall, such as the welcome back dance, while the weather is still warm enough for outdoor activities. Additionally, the club fair held at the beginning of the school year should be held in the courtyard area. In the past, the club fair has been held over by Jake's place and the new courtyard area provides a similar space to hold this fair.

The Student Life Center, is the hub of the campus and is already being well used to display student work, hold activities, and more. In addition to how this space is already being used, Cardinal Newman should post an events board in the SLC. On this board, things such as upcoming sporting events and their themes, spirit days, liturgy days, and other important events

could be posted. There should also be a board for clubs. On this board would be all of Cardinal Newman's clubs, the student organizers, the teacher who is moderating the club, where they meet, when the next meeting is, and basic information about what that club does. If a student misses club day it can be difficult to figure out who is running a club and how to become involved, but with a board containing all of the information about clubs, students can more easily become involved and a part of the school community.

When the chapel is finished, it can also be fully used to connect the Cardinal Newman community. Newman should use the chapel to hold class level masses. Smaller masses with a single grade level could help to better connect the students of the grade level. Additionally, the chapel can be used to invite alumni back for masses. The school could host alumni mass for graduates of Cardinal Newman to help reconnect and foster the community.

In harnessing the potential of these new spaces, student activities should be the focal point of these spaces to foster the community of Cardinal Newman. The new classroom building courtyard should be used to host events in the fall and spring when the weather is good for outdoor events. In the SLC, Newman should post two boards, one for school wide activities and one for school clubs. Finally, the chapel should be used for grade level masses and alumni masses. Overall, by using all of these spaces more fully, Cardinal Newman can help to promote community and better the school.