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3 April 2024

Alternative Uses of Cardinal Newman High School

Cardinal Newman High School has been a haven for community enrichment and outreach since the school was founded in 1964. The school already supports so many outside programs such as the youth football program that practices on our field. However, with the addition of the Chapel, The Student Life Center, and the new classrooms, there is an opportunity for even more community involvement. Each new structure allows for different programs to be created and bloom into lasting improvement. Some examples of programs include the start of a Christian Community Program in the Chapel, a Performing Arts Camp in the Student Life Center, and a full tutoring program in the new classrooms.

With the start of the Chapel opening in May of 2024, there is the opportunity to grow the faith in our community. There are several Christian Youth Groups in our area, but none tie in the strong bond at Cardinal Newman High School. Community is the foundation of experiences at Cardinal Newman and finding your own home within our community is heavily emphasized. While religious activity and the campus ministry program are active at Newman, there is a way to bring in future Newman students. By creating a program that combines the people and faith of the campus ministry program with the outside community, such as current Saint Rose, Saint Eugene's, and Saint John's students, we can create a home for all those who want to share their faith and form a bond with people before they call Cardinal Newman High School their home.

The Diocese of Santa Rosa has a Department of Youth Ministries that supports 40 parishes within the Diocese. The department is led by Stephen Morris who already has

connections with Cardinal Newman and often helps with Cardinal Newman Retreats. While Cardinal Newman is not a parish, it is part of the Santa Rosa Diocese and can use these connections to bring students to the Christian Community Program. Cardinal Newman can send invitations to future students with their acceptance packages and to teachers at common feeder schools. Flyers could also be distributed by campus ministry to current students and posted in local churches.

A typical youth group is formed under a church, however, this would be more of an independent program. The program could be structured during the summer so current students can continue their faith with other current students and future students can form connections with their future classmates. The students could meet once a week at the Cardinal Newman Chapel and simply engage with each other and share their faith. Potential games could be played to spark connection and to keep it light-hearted. Overall, this program could increase the level of community among students and bring light into the Chapel and faith formation.

Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, Cardinal Newman will be bringing back it's performing arts classes, specifically Theatre 1 and Theatre Production. With this new inspiration, there is room for creating a summer program for theater students. Since students have not had the opportunity to be in a theater program in the 2023-2024 school year, having a one-week summer program for theater can be a great way to get students acclimated to what the class could be like. Having a jumpstart program for students to join can be one of the most beneficial tools in helping kids grow into a subject and feel truly comfortable with themselves and the material they are learning. There are so many sports camps that go on at Newman during the summer that help kids grasp concepts before their season starts during the school year. A theater program would do

the same for kids mentally that sports programs do, but it would be tailored to the needs of theater.

The Student Life Center would be perfect for a program like this due to all the areas within it. For example, the small stage in the SLC can be used to get students used to performing in front of classmates on an elevated platform. The conference room on the lower level can be the initial meeting point for students during the program as it allows for a relatively secluded area where instructors can talk to students without taking up all of the Student Life Center. There is even a soundproof room housed in the Student Life Center where students can practice lines or singing techniques should a musical be chosen. Overall, with the vast size of the Student Life Center, there is a place for the theater program to take place and shine.

Should the camp take off the first year, there is room for it to grow. The ultimate goal in theater is to perform in front of a large audience. The program could expand from a one-week camp to a multi-week camp with the last day being the big show. What this means is that the students could have an intensive experience where they are learning acting techniques all while rehearsing for a short performance at the end of the camp. While this would be more elaborate and quick-paced compared to a single-week model, it would have the benefit of kids working towards an ultimate goal and gaining performance experience. The performance could also act as a fundraiser for the Theatre 1 and Theatre Production class at Cardinal Newman. The cost of attendance to the summer program could be put towards the budget of costumes, light fixtures, or props for future productions through the class itself. Creating a summer theater program could be exactly what the Art Department of Cardinal Newman needs to bring out creativity and support the growth of theater.

Academics are the core of any High School experience. Cardinal Newman has given rise to many excellent students who have gone on and thrived in college. However, academics don't come easy to everyone. Newman has started a small peer tutoring program in the Student Life Center for Mathematics, but that isn't always enough. Broadening our spectrum and creating a full-fledged tutoring program can produce a more tight-knit community and strengthen academics not only at Cardinal Newman but also at Saint Rose. Learning on a one-to-one basis and with someone more on your level can be very beneficial to not only understanding something but also can help boost morale. Academics can be complex and the way a teacher is explaining may be different than the way a student can explain something. As learning is not a straightforward process, hearing the same material be explained another way can produce results that cannot be obtained in a classroom setting. This is what makes peer tutoring so vital.

The peer tutoring program could take place after school during the times of office hours and be housed in the new classrooms. Depending on how popular the program becomes, several classrooms can be turned into tutoring rooms where current students or Saint Rose students can come and learn from students who have mastery in certain subjects. Classrooms can be divided into pods or areas for each subject. For example, a classroom could be divided into four subjects with Math and Science being closest to the whiteboard for easy access for showing example problems, and English and History taking the other half of the room. The tutoring sessions could be the same time and length as office hours to keep a consistent schedule on the Newman campus. Sessions could be on Tuesdays and Thursdays to provide time for tutors to still be able to get all of their homework done without stress. A Google Classroom could also be created to allow for communication between students, teachers, and tutors in case of a tutor or teacher not being able to attend a session or for posting comments and helpful information.

Peer tutoring also allows students to get help when teachers are not available. The drop-in aspect of peer tutoring provides flexibility and the ability to get help whenever needed. Sometimes teachers have after-school meetings, or special events that cause them to not have office hours, or simply they have to leave school early before office hours end. Peer tutoring allows students to be able to get the help they need when their teacher is not available. This can be a game changer for many students who sometimes need to walk through a problem or have a question that is itching their brain. Teachers' unavailability should not interfere with a student's learning, but students should not interfere with a teacher's personal life and responsibilities. Peer tutoring provides a happy medium and solution to this problem while also having benefits that simply going to office hours does not have.

The growth of our campus has led to so much inspiration and has blossomed into a beautiful place for faith, learning, and expression. The new buildings that we have been blessed with can be used for so many things that it is practically impossible to pinpoint the most important use. The start of a faith program can foster community and provide a safe space for all those, current and future, who want to express their love of God. The creation of a theater program encourages confidence and boosts the performing art classes. Peer tutoring fosters academic growth and relaxes the stress of students and teachers alike. Overall, the structures built on our campus are full of life and opportunity; we just need to harness them for good.