

NEWMAN *Connection*

NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & ALUMNI

Happy Retirement

Thank you for the love and dedication you have given to the students, families and staff of Newman Catholic Schools.



Terry Vechinski - 25 Years
NCES: St. Anne
Principal



Mary Hart - 42 Years
NCES: St. Mark
1st Grade Teacher



Deb Krueger - 9 Years
NCECC: St. Therese
Licensed Child Care Teacher

May God's unfailing love and care surround you as you begin your new journey in life.

Congratulations to the

WIAA'S DIVISION 5 STATE BOYS CHAMPIONS!

On Saturday, March 18, 2023, the Newman Catholic Boy's Basketball team capitalized on a phenomenal season, winning the Division 5 State Boys Championship. This group of young men, took the title through hard work and determination. Coming together as a team to finish the season 27-4. Lead by a dedicated powerhouse group of Seniors, the 2022-23 team will go down in Newman Catholic Athletic history as one of the strongest teams to hit the court. **Way to go Fighting Cardinals!**



30th Anniversary of NCECC: St. Therese

*Interview with Site Director, Amy Faust
June 15, 2023*



The fall of 2023 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Early Childhood Center at St. Therese. In celebration of this remarkable milestone, Amy Faust, Site Director of Newman Catholic Early Childhood Center: St. Therese (NCECC: St. Therese), was asked to share about the early childhood programs and why they are important to the education of our youngest Cardinals.

Q: Can you share the history, the timeline, of St. Therese Middle School transitioning to an Early Childhood Center?

A: When I began in 1999, the child care program at St. Therese had already been around for six years, first receiving licensure in August of 1993. For many years, grades 4, 5 & 6 shared the building until sixth grade moved to St. Matthew Middle School in 2001 and the fourth and fifth grade classes moved to St. Mark in 2004. Wausau Area Catholic Schools, the system was going through a unification, combined programs into the structure that we still use today which consists of two early childhood centers, two elementary schools, the middle school and high school.

Q: Can you describe the programs offered at NCECC: St. Therese?

A: NCECC: St. Therese offers a play-based curriculum to students from six weeks old to thirteen years. This includes licensed child care classes, a 4 year old Kindergarten program, and a summer program for school age children. Developmentally appropriate curriculum is a key component at all levels.

Q: How would you explain what makes NCECC: St. Therese unique and a great learning environment for the children in the community?

A: Consistency and experience make NCECC: St. Therese a wonderful place for students to learn. Consistent staff, with little turnover, means that teachers truly get to know the students and their families. This creates a secure and comfortable environment which allows students to excel and develop a strong foundation for future success. The staff cares deeply for their students, not only their educational growth but also their emotional health. It is a truly loving environment.

Q: Please share the importance of the early childhood programs and how students benefit from a play-based curriculum.

A: Consistent and strong curriculum is a key factor in any child's development and helps set a strong foundation for future growth. The key is to balance their education while allowing them to still be kids. Children need to play and use their imagination to ensure strong social and emotional growth. This is accomplished by strategically planning activities that interest the children and allow them to learn while they play. Play-based learning improves language skills, problem solving and math skills.



Q: What are three words that you would use to describe a students' experience at NCECC: St. Therese?

A: Though technically not three words, I can offer three core thoughts. NCECC: St. Therese offers an enriched environment that is focused on family and is deeply embraced by the Catholic faith.

Q: How are you and your team going to be celebrating the 30th Anniversary?

A: We are still working through the details but we will be celebrating on the 30th of each month. These celebrations will focus on fun and service. It is important that we honor this milestone but want to do so in a way that offers fun and a celebration of faith.

Early Childhood Educator of the Year

We are excited to share that Ms. Therese Riedel, NCECC: St. Therese Licensed Child Care Teacher, received the Diocese of La Crosse Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award.

Ms. Therese joined NCECC: St. Therese 23 years ago with no early childhood experience, but brought a great work ethic and deep knowledge of the Catholic faith. In hopes of expanding her knowledge in early childhood education, she furthered her education by taking advantage of professional development opportunities whenever available. The skills developed through ongoing learning directly benefits her students.



Ms. Therese excels in environmental education and brings that excitement and experience to her classroom every chance she gets. She offers meaningful, hands-on learning activities that make learning fun and encourages students to be lifelong learners. Ms. Therese is a mentor for new teachers and acts as coordinator of the Christmas program and the Summer Adventure Camp.

Ms. Therese brings her Catholic faith into the classroom on a daily basis, leading students in prayer and engaging them in lessons. She ensures that students are engaged with the church by touring St. Therese Parish and answering all of their questions in a way they can understand. She has a natural ability to communicate effectively with children, families and staff members, which makes her an outstanding teacher and leader.

Congratulations, Ms. Therese! Thank you for all that you do!

Reflections on a Trip of a Lifetime to Washington DC

Mr. Ryan Moore

Social Studies Teacher at Newman Catholic High School

This spring, I had an opportunity to lead a group of students from Newman Catholic Middle and High School on a trip to Washington DC in partnership with two of our sister high schools in the Diocese of La Crosse. In my time as a teacher, I have been fortunate to have had the chance to take students to Europe and Washington DC. It is a blessing to be able to help students visit and experience the places that we study in class.

After months of planning we, 11 students and two chaperones from Newman Catholic Middle & High School, along with groups from Assumption and Pacelli flew to Washington DC. On the ground we had four, jam packed days that began at 6:30 am and ended at 11:00 pm. Highlights of our trip included visits to war memorials and monuments, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and much more. The experience was made even more memorable when we celebrated Mass together at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

As this trip was for students to experience and develop a deeper appreciation for our Nation's history, we asked one of the participants to share her thoughts...

"The trip to Washington D.C. was a wonderful opportunity for students interested in our Nation's history. It was a wonderful experience to witness the struggle, bravery, and perseverance of our Nation's leaders and those who helped build our country. This trip also allowed us to learn about other countries, wildlife, religion, pop culture, and much more. There was something there for everyone to enjoy. We fit a lot into our short, four day trip, but I will do my best to touch on a few experiences that stood out to me.

I really enjoyed the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. It had everything from wildlife and the history of homosapians, to jewels and minerals. We were only able to spend about an hour there but I believe I could've spent the whole four days there. It was so uniquely set up, like no place I'd ever seen before. Each exhibit seemed to go on for miles and almost everything there caught your eye. Out of everything we saw this was certainly one of the highlights for me.

Another one of my favorites was the Lincoln Memorial. We were fortunate to be able to visit at night when it was all lit up. Across the reflecting pool, you could see the World War II Memorial as well as the Washington Monument. It was very beautiful and a perfect representation of Abraham Lincoln as an important part of American history and a strong symbol of our Nation's values.

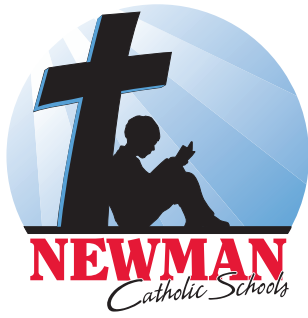
The Holocaust museum was also very interesting. I had never had a chance to learn about the holocaust in such great detail. The holocaust is one of the most horrific parts of World History and I had never realized how truly terrible it was. All the photos and stories we read were heartbreaking and clearly brought a lot of emotion to the visitors there. I think it helped the students on this trip to realize the reality of what happened.

The chaperones, our tour guide, and our bus driver helped make this trip a very educational experience. I learned a lot in D.C. and I think it is a great opportunity for students that might be interested in years to come."

– Melayna Severson, Class of 2025

An experience like the DC trip can change how a person views the world and can inspire a love of travel. Bringing trips back to the students after having to take several years off is a blessing. The 8th graders of Newman Catholic Middle School will travel again to Washington D.C. next year and my hope is that they will have as equally a fantastic and memorable time as those that attended during the spring of 2023.





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