

NEWMAN Connection

NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & ALUMNI

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Newman Catholic Schools Fosters Disciples of Christ Through Catholic Faith, Service and Academics

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REV. SAM MARTIN

DEAN OF NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS | PASTOR, HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

"To live is to change, to be perfect is to have changed often." - Saint John Henry Newman

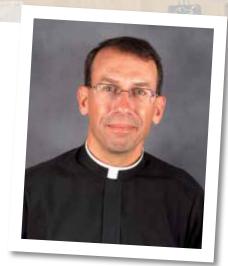
The quote at the head of this article is one of my favorites because it applies to each of us. Equally impressive is the fact that St. John Newman practiced what he preached: his move from the church of England to Catholicism was the kind of monumental change that continues to reverberate well over a century since it happened. The challenge for us and for every generation is to choose to engage life and not merely passively observe it; to fully live and not to merely exist.

When Pope Benedict XVI visited England in 2010 to beatify Newman, the country wasn't sure what to expect. In the end, the Pope's visit became a true catalyst of change for many, and even inspired David Cameron, the Prime Minister at the time, to say, "You have challenged the whole country to sit up and think. And that can only be a good thing."

The goal for all Catholic education is to foster the changes we each must undergo if we are to be witnesses of the truth. There is always a cost when it comes to learning the truth: ask any student on a Monday morning in March if they're excited about learning that day and the results will be rather predictable. "To sit up and think" – sometimes we just don't feel like it. Catholic schools are not surprised by this because of our fallen condition. The solution is never to coddle, but to teach the virtues that fortify the will and discipline the mind so that it may both seek and find the truth.

Sometimes we resist change because we are lazy, at other times because we are afraid. Even secular wisdom once understood this: fortune favors the brave. Newman's legacy is that he invited the world to leave the shadows and find freedom in the truth. Many of us resist because we lack the fortitude of faith.

Down through the centuries, the great choice has always been between fear and faith. Saint John Henry Newman chose faith and that completely changed his life. What will we choose?





Celebrate Your Faith... Celebrate as a Community!

All within our Catholic community are welcome to celebrate their faith with the students of Newman Catholic Schools. A student's faith journey is not an individual effort but one supported by the community around them so please consider joining NCS for:



All School Masses are open to the local Catholic community and greater Newman Catholic family

Christing Courts can be enjoyed by all. Celebrate the joyous season with the NCS students.





Volunteer for Faith Formation Programs help live God's word by sharing your faith with the students.

Please keep the students, faculty & staff of Newman Catholic Schools in your prayers. God's love is the guidance needed as they continue on their journey in faith.

An Exciting Year Ahead

UPDATE FROM THE NCS PRESIDENT



Dear Friends of Newman Catholic Schools,

The start to the 2023-2024 school year was filled with excitement as the Newman Catholic Schools (NCS) family came together once again. There is nothing better than hearing the sounds of students and staff filling the halls once again.

Newman Catholic Schools has taken a significant step this year by establishing its own, faith-based 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) program at NCES: St. Mark. Though 4K has been available at NCES: St. Mark, it was established in partnership with the DC Everest School District which restricted our ability to teach students about their Catholic faith within the classroom. The desire to create a faith-based 4K program that was available to students all day, led the system to take this exciting step. The response has been a resounding success, and the system is looking forward to the possibility of expanding to

the early childhood centers at NCECC: St. Michael & St. Therese in the coming years.

The new year has also offered students an opportunity to renew our focus on fostering a system-wide culture that supports the social and emotional health of all at Newman Catholic Schools. To help in achieving this goal, NCS has adopted the Second Step curriculum which helps individuals build social and emotional skills, such as nurturing positive relationships, managing emotions, and setting goals so they can thrive in school and in life.

In preparation for the school year, two capital projects were completed at the middle and high school, installation of a new HVAC system and creation of an Innovation Lab. The HVAC project was completed a year earlier than expected, bringing updated heating and the comfort of air conditioning to all rooms. The Innovation Lab is a collaborative learning environment where students can work on

problem solving, self-direction, creativity, and collaboration while enjoying state of the art technology.

The system is moving in a positive direction that would not be possible without the support of many. As they say, "It takes a village..." and a truer statement has never been spoken when you look at the village that it takes to succeed in our mission. The multitude of employees, supporters, our Catholic community, and friends who remain committed to the students ensures a strong Catholic education remains an option for the youth of our community. To all who give to ensure Newman Catholic Schools' success, we say THANK YOU!

Many Blessings,

JEFF GULAN

President of Newman Catholic Schools

The Newman Catholic Schools family would like to say thank you to the members of the Education Commission and Finance Committee. Thank you for offering your counsel and leadership.

The Education Commission and Finance Committee act as consultative bodies in the ministry of Catholic school education. These leadership groups help form policy and act as consultative bodies; guiding the system forward towards continue success.

We are one in Christ and one in our desire to support the youth of our Catholic community. Thank you, for helping the students of Newman Catholic Schools grow in faith and knowledge.

Your support is a blessing!

Education Commission

Parish Representatives

System Leadership

Rick Syennes Committee Chair & St. Mark Parish

Chris Pfender

Finance Committee Chair

Ross Bodenheimer

Michael Murphy

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Rep

Marcy Stenstrom St. Therese Parish Rep

Cathy Hackel St. Michael Parish Rep

Laura Reamer Church of Resurrection Parish Rep

John Knoll

Claire Meney

St. Mary Parish Rep

Jack Reeves St. Matthew Parish Rep

Pastoral Leadership

Rev. Sam Martin Holy Name of Jesus Parish & NCS Dean

Rev. Eric Mashak

Associate Pastor at St. Mark Parish & St. Therese Parish & NCMS/HS Chaplain

Rev. Al Burkhardt

Mary, Mother of Good Help Parish

Rev. Sebastian Kolodziejczyk

St. Matthew Parish

Resurrection, St. Michael Parish

Rev. Albert Joseph Saleth

St. Anne Parish, Church of the

Chris Pfender **Gary France**

Jeff Gulan NCS President Sarah Keene

Jaclyn Lepak

Enrollment Specialist, Marketing &

Communications

Renita Ulrich

Human Resources Manager

Jessica Noll

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Thomas Reichenbacher Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic

Schools

Sarah Welch NCECC: St. Michael Site Director

Amy Faust

Director of Advancement & Alumni NCECC: St. Therese Site Director Caleb Feidt

NCES: St. Anne Principal **Shirley Heise** NCES: St. Mark Principal

Carl Fech

NCMS/HS Principal

Finance Committee

Jeff Gulan Jessica Noll **Rick Svennes** Ron Klimisch Sarah Keene Tanya Riehle

Rev. Tom Lindner St. Anne Parish, Church of the

St. Mark Parish & St. Therese Parish

Rev. Al Slowiak

Resurrection, St. Michael Parish

Thank You For Your Guidance & Leadership!!

Newman Catholic Schools Begins Accreditation Preparation

SHIRLEY HEISE

PRINCIPAL, NCES: ST. MARK

Newman Catholic Schools is proud of its history, its traditions, and the strength of its Catholic identity. Administrators and staff strive to ensure that the education students receive, at all grade levels, is of high quality and reflects the mission of our school. Students, school families, and community members bring a commitment to service into the buildings, and our supporting parishes provide not only financial support but opportunities to experience the spiritual and sacramental elements of our faith lives.

During the 2023-24 school year, Newman Catholic Schools will be undergoing a self-study as it relates to accreditation by the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA) and the Wisconsin Catholic Schools Accreditation (WCSA).

The process of accreditation has three phases which provide school communities with the opportunities to research every aspect of the school's programs, receive valuable feedback from a team of impartial professional educators, and develop a long-range plan based on the WRISA standards and benchmarks.

The established standards for WRISA and WCSA focus on policies, programs, structures, and processes that should



be present in a mission driven, program effective, and responsibly governed Catholic school. The standards address four domains: Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality. Each standard lends itself to specific criteria that should be present in our schools.

Benchmarks provide measurable and observable descriptors that support the goal of each standard. As we look to meet benchmarks that provide a solid basis for creating a long-range plan it is important to explore diagnostic instruments, implement data collections and reporting structures, and utilize accreditation tools as appropriate at local, diocesan, and regional levels. NCS must prove that we are an effective school system that meets the rigorous standards of excellence and can demonstrate a focus on continuous school improvement.

Having shared this information, NCS wants to thank our Newman Catholic School family in advance for the work that we are undertaking. Administrators and staff have already begun the process of reviewing standards and benchmarks and identifying evidence necessary for meeting the requirements of those accreditation domains. Going forward there will be surveys for students, staff, parents, parishioners, and pastors. Your input is an important component in determining the strength of our programs and especially, our mission.

Completing this accreditation process is a tremendous undertaking that will take a lot of work, grit, and patience on the part of many. Ultimately, we want to showcase the great things taking place in our schools. We want to celebrate our Catholic identity and dedicate ourselves







to the beliefs of Saint John Henry Newman. We want everyone to know that we ARE Newman Catholic Schools and we "foster disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics" every day.

Faith

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.

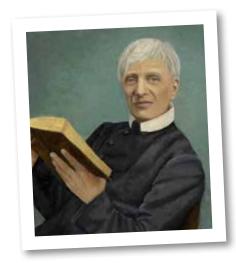
Amen.

- St. John Henry Newman

Newman for Newman

REV. TOM LINDNER

PASTOR, ST. ANNE PARISH & EASTSIDE PARISHES



St. John Henry Newman may seem an odd figure to identify as the patron of our schools.

To be honest, I'm drawn more easily to the profound generosity and compassion found in the witness, for example, of St. Teresa of Calcutta or St. Vincent de Paul; or the courageous witness of martyrs such as St. Lawrence or St. Maximilian Kolbe. They are among the saints whose creativity, determination, resilience, and faithfulness convey a powerful witness for those of us striving to one day join them as saints.

But Cardinal Newman? Really?

He was a priest of another era, the 19th century, who spent most of his time in the library writing and researching; giving turgid lectures at the university; preaching equally dense, complicated, and lengthy homilies in church. In pictures he almost always appears stern, even tired; although there is that intriguing image in which he is pulling his ear, which always reminds me of Carol Burnett. His story would not readily engage the imaginations of grade schoolers or even high school students.

Most of us recall the many decades in which he was known by just his last name; and really most of us knew very little, if anything, about him. It was a name on a high school or a campus ministry parish, such as the one I was pastor of for 18 years in Stevens Point. I'll confess I really knew very little about the person behind that one-word identification. Until, suddenly, or so it seemed to some of us, he was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010 and, nine years later, canonized by Pope Francis.

Then more of us began to realize a legacy that extends far beyond lecture halls and libraries and has come to permeate fundamental understandings of conscience, knowledge and community.

It was his conscience, guided by what he learned in his studies and discerned in his prayer, that led to his leaving the Anglican Church to become a Roman Catholic on Oct. 9, 1845, the date now designated as his feast day.

It was his intense striving for knowledge and urging others to deepen their understanding of scripture, Christian tradition and teaching that prompted his association with Catholic campus ministry at public universities and our own shared system of Catholic education.



And it was his appreciation of all the Catholic faithful, all the baptized, that influenced significant teaching of the Second Vatican Council, as well as now the conversations commencing this fall in Rome as part of the historic Synod on Synodality at which, for the first time, lay people will have a voice and a vote.

In the end, St. John Henry Newman may not seem warm or compassionate or courageous, but like all the saints he was always searching, never content, determined to realize "the definite service" for which God had created him and to see more clearly the "kindly light" that guided him. And that guides us.



Born: February 21, 1801 Died: August 11, 1890 Beatification: September 19, 2010 Canonization: October 13, 2019 Feast Day: October 9 Saint John Henry Newman. Pray for Us

Pilgrimage to Rome: A Trip of a Lifetime

THOMAS BATES, CLASS OF 2023

Typically, graduation marks the end to a student's time at high school, but for seven students from the Newman Catholic High School's Class of 2023, they enjoyed one last adventure together, a pilgrimage to Rome. Thanks to the school's Chaplain, Fr. Eric Mashak, the opportunity was opened to the entire senior class with seven graduates traveling together on a journey in faith; a journey that would strengthen their relationship with God.

Asked to share of the experience, Thomas Bates offered the following reflection to bring you on the journey with the graduates:

"A pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi was the perfect ending to my time at Newman Catholic High School. The trip strengthened my faith and understanding of the Catholic Church and brought me closer to God, family, and friends.

My favorite part of the trip was traveling to Assisi and staying there for three days. The reason I enjoyed Assisi is because it was so peaceful there and I loved the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and other churches we visited. We had the opportunity to have Mass in the chapel where St. Francis of Assisi is buried, and it was a very beautiful experience. Another awesome site to see while in Assisi was the San Damiano Cross, the cross that spoke to St. Francis.

Being able to pray in front of it the same way as St. Francis was an amazing experience and an absolute blessing.

One of the greatest highlights from Assisi is when we hiked up a mountain to a hermitage where St. Francis spent most of his time. There, we saw the bed of rock which he slept on to do penance. After the hermitage, we continued to hike up the mountain and when we made it to the top it looked upon all of Assisi and far beyond. It was amazing to see God's beautiful creation as we prayed together on top of the mountain and took in the views. It was truly peaceful.

Rome was bigger than I expected it to be, and I did not realize how many and how massive the churches were. Visiting all the different churches, praying in them, and having Mass in them was astonishing and it seemed like each church we visited kept getting bigger with more complex architecture and artwork.

On one of the days we got to hang out with Cardinal Harvey, who is from Wisconsin, and he gave us a tour of St. Paul Outside the Walls. It was awesome to be able to speak with and learn from a Cardinal. Lastly, St. Peter's Basilica was one of the most breathtaking things I have ever seen. It was a blessing to attend Mass in the chapel at the tomb of St. Pope John Paul II. The architecture and artwork were stunning, and we gained so much from the tours we participated in. Each experience helped us gain a deeper understanding of our faith.

I am forever grateful to Fr. Eric for offering this opportunity to us and for leading our group on the pilgrimage to Italy. It was amazing to see everything there and being able to go with my mom and some of my classmates made the trip very special. I hope that future classes are given this opportunity to grow as much from the pilgrimage as we did."









Religious Instruction at Newman Catholic Schools

JOY OROZCO

NCHS RELIGION TEACHER

At Newman Catholic Schools we seek to educate and develop the whole child. The educational process is an opportunity to cultivate the entire person by engaging the human need for physical, mental, social and spiritual nourishment.

We are proud to serve parents who desire the highest quality academic instruction for their children. We offer excellence in academics as well as helping them in their sacred mission and responsibility to bring their family to Heaven.

Enrichment activities are fundamental to a well-rounded education at Newman Catholic Schools. Programs that support talents are always woven into the curriculum because they allow students to create, express and experiment in healthy and empowering ways. Art is one of the ultimate unifiers. Human emotion is experienced and shared through melody. The solidarity instituted by music and art draws us closer as a human community under God.

We also recognize recreational and competitive athletics as sources of spiritual and physical enrichment. Sports programs promote the pursuit of a healthier lifestyle through physical fitness. Spiritual and moral development are fostered through teamwork, camaraderie, hard work and healthy competition in fun and positive environments. Above all, children learn valuable lessons in character formation when they must conduct themselves in situations where winning is not guaranteed. They learn how to cope with loss, and how to harness it as an incentive for growth.

Community is a focal part of the everyday experience at Newman Catholic Schools. All mornings begin with sacred silence followed by a school-wide prayer with all teachers, faculty and students in attendance. At weekly Mass, we worship together as faith-filled communities, thanking the Lord for giving us another

day to enjoy our families, the many gifts we have been given and the opportunity to be led by His grace. Each school activity, from sporting events to musical productions, is preceded by prayer and the affirmation of community.

Graduates of Newman Catholic Schools have solid academic foundations, spiritual fortitude, strong moral convictions and the desire to be civically engaged. Guided by God's grace, we give students the tools they need to shape their futures and to become their best selves. As Catholic educators, we are humbled by the knowledge that our students move on to translate their spirituality, skills and scholarship into actions that transform the world.

A Newman Catholic Student's Faith Journey

The foundation of a Newman Catholic Schools education is grounded in the Catholic faith. To be Catholic is not simply achieved by attending Mass each week but by embracing a relationship with God and living His word. The Newman Catholic Schools system focuses on helping students grow in their faith by offering a rich curriculum at all levels within the system.

Early Childhood Curriculum

Gospel Weeklies: "Seeds"

Pflaum Faith Formation Series Colorful, hands-on activities that help young students experience the Gospel.

Middle School Curriculum

"We Live Our Faith As Members of the Church"

Continues the foundational education of Catholic Identity that begins at the elementary level; helping students better understand their faith.

Elementary Curriculum

"We Believe Catholic Identity"

This series builds Catholic Identity by teaching core Catholic beliefs, practices, and principles.

High School Curriculum

Grade 9

Old Testament New Testament

Grade 11 Sacraments Moral Theology

Grade 10 Creed

Church History

Grade 12 Social Justice Vocations

The NCS Catholic curriculum is strengthened through a student's participation in:





Weekly Mass Taily Prayer Retreats Service Projects

Service

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

- St. Francis of Assisi (13th century)



The Education of the Disciples Heart

To Know and Love God so that we can Serve Him

REV. ERIC MASHAK

ASSOC. PASTOR, ST. THERESE & ST. MARK CHAPLAIN AT NCMS/HS

The Greek word μαθητής (pronounced: math-ay-tes') is the word used in the Gospels for our English word 'disciple.' Normally, we would understand 'disciple' simply as someone who follows another. But the root of this word is the same as the root word for mathematics ... meaning ... that the work of the disciple is much more intense, like the work of a student in the endeavor of becoming truly educated. The disciple does not vaguely follow the master, like being curious about Him, but does the things that the master does ... to be with Him always.

Jesus Christ, who is all powerful and omnipotent, has come among us as a servant. One saint in the Catholic Church who has shone as a star in service to the Church is St. Teresa of Calcutta. She gave her life away completely in service to the Church in a religious order. This love of the church poured over into her apostolates.

There is a story about St. Teresa serving the poor in the slums of Calcutta, India. Her religious order was always known to seek out the poorest of the poor and to serve them as they served Christ. One day St. Teresa found a dying man in a gutter who was covered with filth and sores. As she and her sisters picked up the dying man and began to wash his sores, so that he could have a dignified death, when someone from the crowd exclaimed, "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars." St. Teresa was heard whispering to herself, "Neither would I." How profound! She was doing it for Jesus Christ. Her heart had been so formed and educated in love of the master (discipleship) that she habitually chose to love others out of her love for God. She wouldn't do it for a million dollars, but she would do it for love of God!

This is the kind of education that each heart needs. This prepares a person to fully give themselves away in their vocation: marriage, religious life, or priesthood. It is the love of God that sustains the person in giving their life away, a beautiful intimacy with Jesus Christ. The education of the disciple's heart happens when the disciple comes to know and love the master so much that the master can send out the disciple into the world to do His work.





My Casa Hogar Service Experience

2023 MISSION TRIP TO CASA HOGAR JUAN PABLO II, PERU

KARI SEVERSON, CLASS OF 2023



My time at Casa Hogar was not very long, but in the one-week time frame, I saw something that will stick with me forever. I witnessed an orphanage full of God's love. Upon arriving at Casa Hogar, we were immediately welcomed and embraced by the staff. A tour of the vicinity was given along with incredible stories from Padre Hirsch. We were introduced to how they run things and how important each little bit of help can be. Our mission group's service at Casa included engaging with the children and building our project.

Playing and interacting with the children was my favorite part of the whole mission. Various events and activities took place where we could build one-on-one connections with each child. Although the language barrier was tough, it did not inhibit the fun. One day, we had ice cream sundaes and face painting and the next, a quinceañera.

The main thing I noticed was how easy it was to love the children at Casa Hogar. These children, though they come from heartbreaking backgrounds, were full of endless love to give. Simply spending a short amount of time with them, it was abundantly clear the resilience and joyfulness they express is due to the loving community in which they are being raised in.

For our project, we built benches for an extremely poor church that Casa Hogar assists. We were told these benches would be used to celebrate Mass, so they would not have to continue sitting on the ground. Together our team worked to get the wood cut, assembled, and stained, making some beautiful pieces that the parish was so grateful to receive. Witnessing their faces light up when presented their gift, made me realize how much I truly take for granted. That is when I learned the valuable life lesson of contentment and gratitude.

Serving in Peru was an eye-opening experience. I am so thankful for the new friendships formed, lessons learned, and the cherished memories. I will forever carry the spirit of Casa Hogar with me, and I am inspired to continue being of service wherever I go.



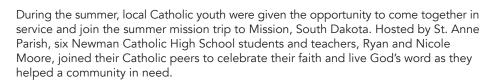


Living as Disciples of Christ

2023 MISSION TRIP TO MISSION, SOUTH DAKOTA

WYATT GASPER, CLASS OF 2023





Class of 2023 graduate, Wyatt Gasper, was among those who traveled to South Dakota and offered a reflection on his experience:

"I go on mission trips because I believe in the power of service. I want to use my skills and talents to help others and believe that mission trips are a great way to do that.



Many people think that the only way to praise God is to go to Mass and pray, but mission trips blend worship and hard work to reach out and help people in need. Each day, the campers go to their worksites and can connect with the residents and learn their stories while helping complete projects at their house. Not only do you get to work with some amazing people and make new friends from all over the U.S., but you also take home real experience and skills to help yourself in the future. I could probably build a porch in my sleep now.

This past mission trip was especially fun. The St. Anne's group traveled to Mission, South Dakota, and worked on houses on the Native American reservation. We got to enjoy many different cultural experiences. In fact, one of the staff who was helping is Native American and showed us one of the dances she performs at Pow Wows. We were able to try fry bread with our meals and talk with some of the residents about how life is different on the reservation and how the leaders and community work together.



If asked, I would highly recommend people go on mission trips, not only to help others, but to get real life experience while making a difference in the world. Not to mention all the fun games you play, and the people you meet while you work together. Mission trips provide an amazing opportunity to help people who are in need and connect with God through group prayer and worship."





Academics

God of all growth,

We ask You to bless all students in Catholic schools.

May they remain constantly curious in their pursuit of knowledge and truth,

May they use their gifts and talents to spread Your light and love throughout the earth,

And may all of their learning ultimately draw them closer to Your Son, Christ the Teacher.

We make this prayer in Your Holy Name.

Amen.

- Author Unknown

Early Childhood Play-Based Instruction

AMY FAUST & SARAH WELCH

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER SITE DIRECTORS

When you walk through the doors of Newman Catholic Early Childhood Center: St. Michael and St. Therese you will hear and see children playing. Newman Catholic Early Childhood Centers provide play-based learning as one of their curriculum guidelines. During the act of play, children are exploring, taking risks. engaging their imagination, and solving problems. They are learning valuable skills that support social, physical, and cognitive development.

Play-based learning allows children to develop skills in memory, vocabulary, along with learning new skills. This allows children to build on their interests, joys, and curiosity.

Through play-based learning children are developing relationships with peers as they play together and problem solve, allowing children to build a deeper understanding and more powerful relationships with others. Studies of children have shown play-based learning improved language skills, problem solving skills and math skills. Certain types of imaginative play have also been found to improve perseverance.

For play-based learning to work, educators create a very deliberate environment that encourages the child to participate.

There are four elements in play-based learning:

SELF-DIRECTION - the child chooses what they play and how they play, and adults supervise or potentially suggest ideas.

UNSTRUCTURED EXPLORATION -

children are allowed to explore for themselves and select activities based on their own interests.

FUN - play must be enjoyable for the child and adults should not force certain activities.



PROCESS-ORIENTED - it is the process of the play that is important, there is no end goal or correct response.

At Newman Catholic Early Childhood Center: St. Michael and St. Therese, children's growth and development are developing daily, and this is why play-based learning is an important part of each child's day.



Alumni Teacher Spotlight

JEFF GRESS, CLASS OF 1995

NCMS TEACHER

In remembering back to my days as a student here at Newman Catholic Schools, a huge smile comes across my face and a feeling of unbreakable pride flows from within. Looking back, I had educators who cared about my whole development as a person - I was never just a number but was treated as a valued member of my school community. The lifelong friendships I have made from my time as a student in the Newman Catholic system have always been a cherished part of my life and will be until the day I die. My core beliefs, values, and character are a direct reflection of the teachers, coaches, and families that I was fortunate enough to surround myself with from NCS. I am beyond grateful and so appreciative that my parents made sacrifices for me to attend NCS. It may sound cliche, but I would do it all over again. Playing sports, being in the classroom, hanging out with friends, my time at Newman was well worth it and has made me into the person I am today.

Now as an educator at Newman, that same sense of school pride is deep within me. When I first applied for teaching jobs, I got three offers - one being from Newman Catholic Schools. Obviously, you know which one I chose. For me, NCS has always been three things - family oriented, whole student learning, and Christ-like morals and values. To come back here and get to work with the great families and students, collaborate with dedicated educators and supportive administration, and do it in an environment where spiritually and good character values can still thrive, I count each day I get to teach at Newman Catholic Middle School as a blessing. This is my 23rd year of teaching (all at NCS) and I am so proud to be part of the Newman Catholic family and honored to be able to work at a school committed to the Catholic faith, service and academics.

Early Childhood Education Dual-Credit Course

HEATHER SHAUGHNESSY, INSTRUCTOR

NCMS/HS TEACHER

During the 2022-23 school year, a new opportunity was offered to the students of Newman Catholic High School with the addition of an Early Childhood Education class. The course was part of Newman Catholic High School's dual-credit program in partnership with Northcentral Technical College (NTC).

Dual-credit programs are designed to allow secondary level students to earn college credit for courses taken while still in high school. What the student gains goes far beyond earning college credit, the opportunity also allows students to get "real world" experience in a field that they may be interested in exploring.

The three-credit course allows students the opportunity to work hands-on in an early childhood setting to better understand the complexities of the developing child. As a system that has multiple early childhood centers, finding a program for the students to partner with was made simple and the students were grateful that Newman Catholic Early Childhood Center: St. Michael welcomed them into their classrooms.

Course content included: understanding and supporting diversity and cultural differences within the classroom, along with creating an anti-bias perspective. Students were able to summarize developmental theories, analyze development of children birth through five, as well as write, prepare and plan developmentally appropriate lessons for a given age and environment.







"The new partnership with the students at Newman Catholic High School has been a wonderful addition to our early childhood program. Not only does the opportunity expose the high schoolers to a career in early childhood education, but it also allows our youngest Cardinals to build a connection with our older students. Being able to see the impact that the students have on each other and in a short period of time is truly inspiring. We are thankful to Mrs. Shaughnessy for working with NTC to bring the program to our system."

- Sarah Welch, Site Director Newman Catholic Early Childhood Center: St. Michael

New Teacher & Staff Spotlights



AMY BERARD Child Care Teacher NCECC: St. Therese



BARB SCHWINGLE Food Service Assistant NCES: St. Mark



Principal NCES: St. Anne



CASEY CLAUSIUS
Physical Education Teacher
NCMS/HS



CYNTHIA KLIMEK Food Service Assistant NCES: St. Anne



DEBRA SCHMELLING Child Care Teacher, 3P Aide NCECC: St. Michael



GLORIA BAECKER

Counselor

NCMS/HS



4K Teacher NCES: St. Mark



JANELLE JACKSON Administrative Assistant NCES: St. Mark



JULIE MULLIS
Administrative Assistant
NCES: St. Anne



KAREN BLUM
Interventionist
NCMS/HS



KEITH CLEVELAND
Food Service Assistant
NCMS/HS



MELISSA KALLIN LEININGER Finance Assistant District Office



MOLLY PINTER
Classroom Aide
NCES: St. Anne



SARAH WINTER

4K Teacher

NCECC: St. Therese



SHERI SCHULTZ
Enrollment, Marketing &
Communications Assistant
District Office



STEPHANIE LANG 5th Grade Teacher NCES: St. Mark



SUE LEOPOLD 4K Teacher NCECC: St. Michael



TAMMI AUGUSTINIAK

1st Grade Teacher

NCES: St. Mark



TIM VAIL Headmaster NCCS: Holy Name

WELCOME TO THE NEWMAN CATHOLIC FAMILY!



INTERVIEW WITH STANLEY OLEJNICZAK

Class of 1955

A proud member of Newman Catholic High School's inaugural class, Stanley Olejniczak remains one of the school's greatest advocates and supporters. You will see him sitting in the stands at the basketball and football games, attending system events whenever he can, and popping in just to share a bit of the school's history. Not only is Stan in the Newman Catholic history books as being one of the first graduates, but he is also the first Athletic Hall of Fame inductee.

The system is blessed to have Stan's continued support and it was an honor to sit with him and hear his story.

Q: Stan, as one of Newman Catholic High School's original alumnus, can you please share a bit about your early years in Catholic education?

A: I attended school at St. Micha<mark>el Grade</mark> School through 6th grade before transferring to Holy Name for 7th and 8th grade. There wasn't a Catholic high school for us to go to until some of the parishes and parents got permission from the bishop to start one. It all worked out and Newman High School began in 1951 with classes held in two rooms at St. Mary Elementary.

Q: What were those early days of Newman High School, as it was known at the time, like?

A: There were 68 students in our class when we started freshman year. There was a mix of old friends from my time at St. Michael and new friends. As a group we got to choose our mascot and selected the "Pioneers" because that is what we were; entering brand new territory as we helped start the school. We were, and still are, very proud of our pioneering efforts and that Newman High School is going strong still today.

Q: What do you remember most about being a Pioneer? You and your classmates had a unique experience helping to bring Catholic secondary education to Wausau.

A: We had a couple of laypeople as teachers but also nuns and priests during our four years. In the beginning, classes were held in two classrooms at St. Mary's. Honestly, what I remember most from that time are the teams I played on and our coaches.

Basketball was the only sport in the beginning, and only an option for boys, but I still stay in contact with teammates. We made quite a connection though it is sad to think of the classmates we have lost.

Q: If basketball was the only sport available, what opportunities did you and your classmates have to participate in other activities?

A: We didn't have clubs right away, but you could participate in plays. There were a few during the year. We held a lot of informal dances after school and had a couple of formal dances, Peppermint and Prom.

During our junior year, Jim Krzinski came in as our Athletic Director and coach. He and Jim O'Day helped start the football program for the 1953-54 season. I played football my Junior year but played basketball all four.

Q: Where did life take you after graduating in 1955?

A: I started working the summer after graduation at Silvernockles, which was a window and door manufacturer in town. I worked there part-time as summer help but then worked full-time at Emmens until I entered the Marine Corps in January of 1956. I served in the Marine Corps for 3 years; starting out in boot camp at Camp Pendleton before being stationed in Hawaii. After two years I was transferred to Quantico, Virginia. While at Quantico, I was assigned to the Guard Company at the prison on base. I stayed in active duty until I was discharged at one minute past midnight on January 11, 1959.

Q: What did you do after leaving the military?

A: I traveled to California with a Newman classmate, Wilbur Kurtzweil, to look for work. This was during the recession of 1958 so work was hard to come by, so we had to check in at the union hall, add our names to the list, and wait for a call. We ended up getting work at the post office in El Segundo, California.

I bounced back and forth between Wausau and California for a bit looking for steady work until coming back to Wausau permanently in 1961. I worked at Brokaw Paper Mill until August of 1963 when I left to become a police officer. I worked for the Wausau Police Department until March 1965 when William "Bill" Schuett recruited me to join the Marathon County Sheriff's Department where I stayed for 25 years.

As a part of the Sheriff's Department, one of my most memorable experiences was having the opportunity to work on the new airport security detail; a position I held for about six years in the 1970's.

Q: When did you retire from the Marathon County Sheriff's Department and where did life take you after that?

A: I retired as an officer on June 1, 1990. I then worked for two different courier companies over the next 10 years, Lanter Courier and Dunham Courier. I officially retired in 1999.

Q: We have talked a lot about your professional life but not much about your family. Tell me about them.

A: I met Lorraine in the summer of 1962. She graduated from Marathon City, so I didn't know her in high school, but luckily, we met while playing softball that summer. We were married the following year on June 15, 1963. Our family grew to include two daughters, Lynn (born November 1965) and Lori (born July 1973). Lori graduated from Newman in 1991 and Lynn attended high school at DC Everest. We have one granddaughter, Lia, born in May of 2006. Lia is graduating from Pulaski High School in May of 2024.

Q: If you had a chance to speak with current Newman Catholic High School students, what wisdom would you share?

A: I would tell them to take an interest and be proud of the school that they attend. There is a reason they are here and it's up to them to become a part of their community. Bob Konkel, a 1955 classmate, and I have tried hard to ensure that people know where Newman started; ensuring our Pioneer legacy stays alive. We are proud of our history, proud of what we helped start, and want students now to have that same pride.





Empowered with Skills for Life

During the 2023-24 school year, Newman Catholic Schools will continue to focus on a system-wide journey to create a positive culture and climate by focusing on Social and Emotional learning (SEL). This goal will be achieved by using two primary tools; first by using the Second Step SEL curriculum and second by adopting the Cardinal Character traits at all levels.

The Second Step curriculum helps students build social and emotional skills like nurturing positive relationships, managing emotions and setting goals so they can thrive in school and in life. This program was originally adopted during the 2018-19 school year for kindergarten through Grade 8 but the new year offers an opportunity to expand use of the program to include the early childhood programs and faculty and staff. Second Step does not have a program specifically designed for grades 9-12 but NCS will adapt the curriculum to fit needs within the secondary level.

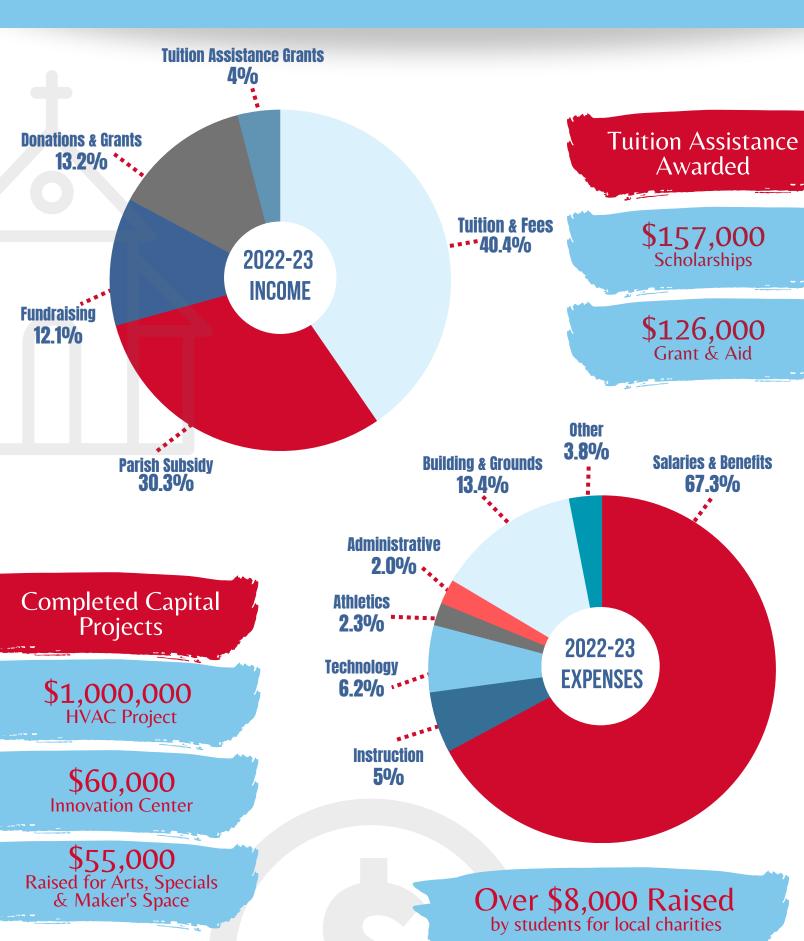
Positive social and emotional development in the early years provides a critical foundation for lifelong development and learning. By adopting a focus on SEL education at all levels within NCS, students will receive a consistent and positive culture that fosters support, love and understanding. This will be achieved by using the SEL curriculum to help students and staff develop the self-awareness, self-control and interpersonal skills that are vital for school, work and life success.



During the 2022-23 school year, Newman Catholic Middle & High School developed a program of focusing on five behavioral traits, known as Cardinal Character, to help students recognize how their actions can impact others. To help foster a system-wide approach to social and emotional learning, the system will adopt the Cardinal Character program at all levels. When fostering a culture of respect, students receive a stronger foundation that will help them cope, interact and reflect as they grow in the Newman Catholic system.



2022-23 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT





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Give of Your Time or Talent

Newman Catholic Schools is truly appreciative of the many volunteers who give of their time and talent in support of the students, faculty and staff. Whether helping out in a school, at an event or sharing your expertise, the system is blessed to have the support of individuals who believe in the power of Catholic education and show what it means to be disciples of Christ.

The Newman Catholic system is always in need of volunteers. If interested in sharing of your own time and talent, please consider reaching out to see how you can help.

Common Ways You Can Give Back:

- Share your talent with the students by teaching a lesson
- Help at an event such as Winter Wonderland or Cabin Fever
- Volunteer in the Scrip office
- Become an active member of the Booster Club or the Home & School Association
- Help out in a support role; i.e. in the library or cafeteria





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www.newmancatholicschools.com

Liturgy of Remembrance

Each year Newman Catholic Schools comes together to remember our alumni who have passed on to their glory.

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

8:55 am - Prayer Service 9:45 am - Mass with the Students Reception Following Mass

All are welcome to join the Newman Catholic Schools community to remember and honor our deceased alumni. May God forever keep them in His loving embrace.







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