

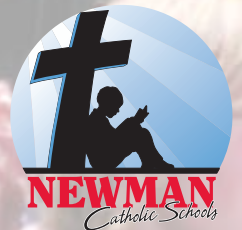
SPRING 2024

# NEWMAN *Connection*

NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & ALUMNI

## *Inside*

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN  
A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
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SUPPORT NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



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



# Message from the Dean

**FR. SEBASTIAN KOLODZIEJCZYK**

DEAN OF NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS | PASTOR, ST. MATTHEW PARISH

*“We are more than impressive test scores.”*

Catholic schools were never just about education. Rooted in centuries-old traditions and imbued with timeless values, they are to provide a holistic experience that fosters intellectual growth alongside moral and ethical development. That is what sets Catholic education apart: its unwavering dedication to instilling moral values and fostering spiritual growth. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and guided by principles of love, compassion, and service to others, Catholic schools are supposed to nurture not only the intellect but also the soul. Through daily prayers, religious instruction, and participation in sacramental life, students

are encouraged to deepen their faith and live out its principles in their daily lives.

As we look to the future, the importance of Catholic education cannot be overstated. In an age marked by rapid technological advancement, shifting societal values and ubiquitous moral relativism, the timeless principles imparted by Catholic schools remain as relevant and essential as ever. By grounding students in a solid moral foundation we hope to prepare them to be compassionate leaders and agents of positive change in our society.



## It's Summer Festival Time!

Celebrate God's glorious gifts as we come together in community this summer!

Holy Name of Jesus Parish  
*Summer Fun Festival*  
May 31 & June 1, 2024

Visit [holynamewausau.com](http://holynamewausau.com) to learn more

St. Mark Catholic Parish  
*June Bug Festival*  
June 9, 2024

Visit [smproths.org](http://smproths.org) to learn more

St. Anne Parish  
*Summer Jam Festival*  
June 14-15, 2024

Visit [stanneswausau.org](http://stanneswausau.org) to learn more

St. Florian Catholic Parish  
*Annual Church Picnic*  
July 27-28, 2024

Visit [stflos.org](http://stflos.org) to learn more

St. Therese Parish  
*August Fest*  
August 10-11, 2024

Visit [sttheresecc.org](http://sttheresecc.org) to learn more

St. Agnes Catholic Parish  
*Sports Banquet*  
September 21, 2024

Visit [stagnescatholicparish.com](http://stagnescatholicparish.com) to learn more

*Thank you to our supporting parishes and to our local Catholic community for your support!*

# A Bright Future for Newman Catholic Schools

## UPDATE FROM THE NCS PRESIDENT



Dear Friends of Newman Catholic Schools,

One of the primary goals of a Catholic school system is to provide a strong foundation of faith that transforms students of the faith to living the faith. Lent is defined as "a period of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ." However, Lent is so much more. It is a time to become closer to our Lord. I pray your Lenten season allowed you to become closer to God and all the great things He has done for us.

Newman Catholic Schools continues to bring the best education to our students that is focused on our mission and vision statements. Our mission, "Newman Catholic Schools fosters disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics" continues to lead everything we do.

I have often been asked, "What makes NCS different from other schools?" It is the support from alumni, donors, families and the Wausau area parishes. These people continuously support the mission of NCS, and that support comes in many forms. I was told as a young boy, you can always offer something to someone. That offering may come in the form of time, treasure or talent. This simple, but effective, philosophy mirrors what we see from our NCS supporters.

Whether it be a private donation, contributing to our Annual Fund, sharing a talent you have or donating your time, NCS values the support from our Newman Catholic family. Recently, when one of our elementary schools needed a fence to strengthen the safety and security on the playground, many NCS families stepped up in a number of ways to make this possibility become a reality.



Newman Catholic Schools continuously reviews and strengthens our financial well-being. As have many organizations, NCS has been faced with rising costs in nearly every area of our school system's budget. To meet the rising costs NCS has been challenged with bringing new or additional programs to our students. Thankfully the support of the Newman Catholic community has made this possible. We are very blessed to have many donors supporting Newman Catholic Schools each and every year. Your generosity has allowed NCS to continue to do what is best for our students, which allows us to provide students with the best Catholic education.

Thank you for your past donations and continued support. I ask that you continue to assist NCS in meeting our students' needs. Together we can continue the mission of the Catholic church to raise our youngest minds through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Many Blessings,

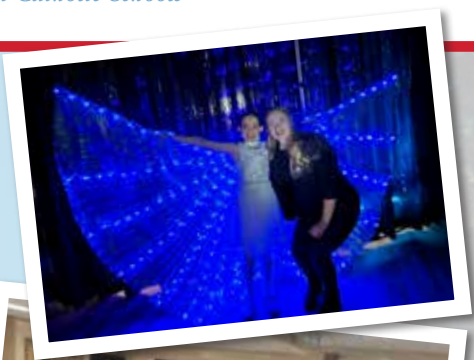
**JEFF GULAN**

*President of Newman Catholic Schools*

## FINDING NEMO JR MUSICAL

Let the show begin! With a dream and desire for Newman Catholic Schools to offer an opportunity for students to participate in a musical, Mrs. Kay Pope and Mrs. Patricia Rougeot, NCS music teachers, embraced the excitement. NCS students in grades 3 through 8 were invited to tryout for the Finding Nemo Jr. musical. The response was overwhelmingly positive and the students brought high energy and excitement. The performers and their families dedicated a lot of time and energy, under the guidance and support of Mrs. Pope and Mrs. Rougeot, to practice and promote the show. Their efforts truly paid off with their hard work coming to fruition in early March with three successful shows. NCS looks forward to offering this wonderful opportunity to students in the years to come.

A huge thank you to the directors, the student performers and parents who made this event a huge success. The Newman Catholic Schools family is extremely proud of you and congratulate you on a great performance!





# United in Faith and Community

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2024



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

During the week of January 28-February 3, 2024, Newman Catholic Schools joined schools across the nation in celebration of Catholic Schools Week; a week in which we celebrate Catholic education and how it helps students embrace their faith, enrich their spirit and build community. Catholic Schools Week offers an important reminder to students that living their faith is more than simply going to Mass on Sundays but must be part of all they do. It is important that they take an active role in their faith education.

As plans for the week came together, two driving messages were kept in mind; the Catholic Schools Week theme, "United in Faith and Community", and the system's mission statement, "Newman Catholic Schools fosters disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics." By keeping both themes at the forefront of the planning process, students were ensured to experience an enriched week in which they could come together in community and strengthen their relationship with God.

### Celebrating Our Faith

All Schools Mass:  
NCS students were joined by students from St. Mary's in Marathon and St. John's in Edgar to celebrate their faith as a community

Vocational Speakers:  
Priests, Sisters and married couples were invited to speak of their chosen profession

Movie & Popcorn:  
Youngest Cardinals enjoyed watching "Two-by-Two: God's Creatures"



*Living Our Mission During Catholic Schools Week!*

### Celebrating Service

System-wide Service Project:  
Supporting the Neighbors' Place  
Over 3,000 items collected.

Making Valentine Cards for the homebound, military and parishioners.

Making Valentine Cards for Senior Living Centers

Writing Thank You Cards to Parishes

### Celebrating Academics

Project: What I like About My Catholic School!

Community Members Invited to Read to Younger Students

Celebrating Our Heritage

Field Trip to Children's Imaginarium

Essay Writing

Fun Fest & Sock Hop

Community Games, Bingo & Bowling

This year's system-wide service project focused on supporting The Neighbors' Place and The Babies' Place. Middle and high school students collected hygiene items for teens and adults and the elementary and childcare students collected items for babies and toddlers. Over 3,000 items were collected to help those in need within Marathon County. Thank you to all who contributed to this wonderful project.

Thank you also to the NCS Dean, Fr. Sebastian Kolodziejczyk, and NCS Chaplain, Fr. Eric Mashak, who were joined by area priests and deacons, for leading our community in the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the system's All Schools Mass. What a glorious site it is to have over 500 students celebrating Mass together. It reminds us of how connected we truly are.





Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community



# A Journey to the Priesthood

## JUSTIN DAMASK, CLASS OF 2015

While a student at Newman Catholic High School, the path to priesthood was not one Justin Damask thought he would take. For him, the vocation of marriage was the journey he sought. His goal, to have a happy marriage like his parents and to raise a family in a house full of love and support just as he and his brothers were. Even after losing their father at a young age, Justin's mother, Paula, made sure that they knew their father's love and that God was always with them to help get them through.

With God's guidance, his mother's love and with strong men who stepped in as father figures throughout his time at Newman, Justin graduated in 2015 ready to take on the world and accept God's plan. A plan that took an unexpected turn.

Justin's original goal was to get a degree in Mechanical Engineering through the University of South Carolina, a path that he stayed on through freshman year. His journey began changing after getting involved in the Newman Center on the campus. Fr. Marcin, priest of the Newman Center, played a crucial role in Justin discerning a vocation to priesthood. The young priest joyfully lived out a spiritual fatherhood in his relationships with the students and families of the community. His actions were so human and profound that it became apparent to Justin for the first time that spiritual fatherhood could be meaningful and life-giving.

During this time, Justin also got involved in a Bible Study group which led to a Men's Discernment group; a smaller group of college aged men committed to asking God what He wanted them to do with their lives. Originally attending the meeting for the free food, he grew to enjoy praying with this small community and their talks about vocations. Through his experiences with Fr. Marcin's Newman Center parish and the Men's Discernment group, Justin found himself considering the idea of spiritual fatherhood. Though the vocation of marriage was still his goal,

a vocation in the priesthood suddenly seemed possible.

Over a six-month period, Justin made a concerted effort to embrace his faith to its fullest. While attending daily Mass, going to confession regularly and continuing to be active at the Newman Center, Justin started to unintentionally put himself in the priest's shoes. While listening to the Homily, he found himself considering the message he would have offered or how he would work towards building a parish community. He started imagining himself as a priest, and in the spring of 2016, he made the decision to join the seminary.

Because there are no seminaries in South Carolina, the Diocese of Charleston sent Justin to study at Holy Trinity Seminary on the University of Dallas campus in Texas. He studied philosophy for two years at Holy Trinity before joining the seminary at Catholic University of America (CUA) in Washington D.C. Three years later, he made a final move to begin Theology Studies at St. Vincent Seminary in Pennsylvania where he is currently in his third year of Theology Studies.

On May 24, 2024, Justin will be ordained as a Transitional Deacon for the Diocese of Charleston. He will then spend a full year as a Transitional Deacon working in parishes and completing his final year in theology studies. All leading to June of 2025, when Justin will be ordained as a priest. A glorious day after an eight-year journey.

When asked what advice he would offer current NCS students, Justin offered multiple thoughts.

First, embrace the mentorship your teachers offer. He thanks Mrs. Joy Orozco for suggesting to the seniors that they should



get involved with the Newman Center at their college. Doing so changed his life in unexpected ways. He is also grateful to Coach Michlig and Coach Gress for their leadership and guidance.

The other piece of advice he would give, "God created each of us with a vocation in mind. One helpful distinction is to ask whether God created me to spend my whole life loving one person with all the love I have in an exclusive way or whether He created me to love everyone in a more universal way. Radically exclusive love is the aim of marriage, and it is the foundation necessary for family life. Radically inclusive love is the aim of priesthood and religious sisters, and this vocation makes a person part of every family. Only God can love universally with the intensity of exclusivity. He invites us to participate in His love by choosing between vocations. Both paths are supernaturally life-giving, in a way that a mere career could never be."

We wish Justin all the best as he takes his final steps to priesthood and ask all of our Newman Catholic family to keep him in their prayers.



As we now rejoice in the glory of the Easter season, it is important to reflect on the journey that the Newman Catholic Schools Community took to embrace the season of renewal that is Lent, which helped prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.

# Lent.

A SEASON OF RENEWAL



During our 40 days of reflection, the whole of the Newman Catholic Schools system celebrated together in prayer, community and service. Students observed the season in ways that will help renew and strengthen their relationship with God as they remembered the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us all.



Daily Prayer



Weekly Mass and Prayer Services



Reconciliation



Service Projects



Stations of the Cross



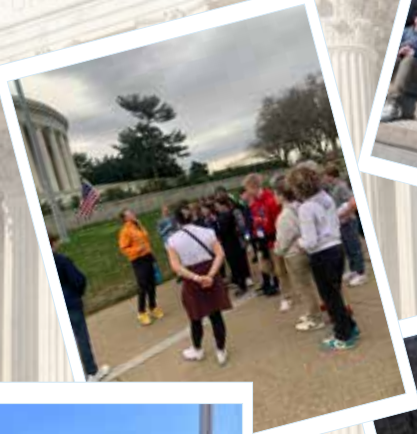
Almsgiving





# NCMS TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

23 STUDENTS TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON D.C. TO TOUR AND LEARN ABOUT OUR NATION'S CAPITAL.



# THE SCALLY BROTHERS

STUDENTS GOT TO ROCK OUT TOGETHER AT THE SCALLY BROTHERS CHRISTIAN ROCK CONCERT ON MARCH 11, 2024.





# Celebrating Our Unsung Heroes

## THE NCS FOOD SERVICE TEAM



When sharing about all that goes on within a school, it is natural to celebrate the work of teachers, the activities in the classroom or on the court and fields, or students' successes, but it is easy to forget to celebrate the unsung heroes. The men and women who work behind the scenes.

One such group deserving of praise, is the Newman Catholic Food Service team who works hard to provide delicious meals while fostering healthy partnerships with students, local growers and staff. At Newman Catholic Schools locations, the food service team feeds over 450 students. This is done while ensuring meals are healthy and balanced to include a protein, vegetable, fruit and milk.

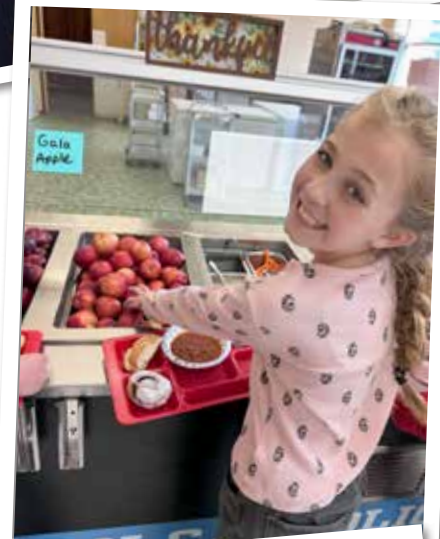
The food service team is blessed to have nine regularly scheduled team members who help in planning, prepping, receiving and serving lunch for five schools and early childhood sites. Because the nature of food service requires limited hours, between three and eight hours per day, and may not need a full staff regularly, the positions are perfect for retirees and parents with flexible schedules. This flexibility allows employees to give of themselves in service to the students, faculty and staff while also ensuring work-life balance.

Over the past few years, the Newman Catholic Schools Food Service team has taken advantage of local opportunities to foster relationships with local farmers; such as, Wilson Creek Orchard, Cattail Organics and Red Door Family Farms. Purchasing food from local farmers offers many benefits. Not only is NCS helping the local economy but the system is able to offer students fresher foods from farm-to-table.

Newman Catholic Schools is grateful to the Food Service team for their hard work and dedication to providing the system with healthy and balanced meals. Well-nourished students are able to focus which leads to success in the classroom, in co-curricular activities and in all they do.

*"I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people."*

*-Maya Angelou*







# Living as a Disciple of Christ

## NICOLE KAST CLASS OF 2004

There's a saying in Improv Theater (a love that began while participating in plays at Newman), "Step into a space and say, "Yes, and..." If Nicole Kast, NCHS Class of 2004, could offer any advice to current NCHS parents, it would be to say "Yes, and..." to their children. Allow students to share their ideas and explore possibilities. Encourage them to be curious about life, question their reality and consider what opportunities life has in store for them. Parents should encourage exploration, saying "Yes you can do that, and you could..." This was exactly the approach Nicole's parents took with her and in doing so they encouraged her to reach her goals.

Nicole learned from a very young age that it was okay to ask questions and to consider the possibilities; to say "Yes" but then ask "why", even when the "why" had to do with her faith. Being able to embrace her faith in such a personal way, and in a loving and comforting environment extended to the halls of Newman Catholic High School, where she was given an opportunity to explore Social Justice and the impact our actions have on the community. This freedom led her to start the Peace & Social Justice Club.

While at NCHS, Nicole felt the deep commitment her teachers had to helping their students succeed and how they encouraged students to find themselves. As she stated, "It was inspiring as a young adult to know that it was okay to explore what you wanted out of life." A concept reinforced during the I-Search project her senior year which focused on students exploring different career paths, researching industries, careers, post-secondary education, and much more. Though work in public health or international development was not a career path she thought of at the time, the project did show her that there were opportunities beyond what she had directly experienced growing up in Wausau. By the time she graduated from NCHS in 2004, Nicole was ready to see where the possibilities would take her.

The first step on her journey, Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, a liberal arts college that offers a strong focus on social justice and activism. Nicole's original degree was English Literature until she joined her father on a trip to Oaxaca, MX, where she fell immediately in love with the people, culture and being immersed in the community; experiences that led Nicole to change her major to Anthropology.



Catholic Relief Services carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. We are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity and justice, and embody Catholic social and moral teaching as we act to:

- **PROMOTE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT** by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies; and,
- **SERVE CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES** as they live their faith in solidarity with their brothers and sisters around the world.

As part of the universal mission of the Catholic Church, we work with local, national and international Catholic institutions and structures, as well as other organizations, to assist people on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality.

During her Junior year, Nicole had another opportunity to explore new possibilities with a full year of studying abroad. First semester was spent back in Mexico where she focused on independent study, developing her own educational journey, studying the culture of health and traditional medicine within indigenous communities. Second semester was spent as part of the International Honors Program which allowed her to travel to India, China and South Africa studying Public Health around the world.

After graduating in 2008, Nicole moved to Oaxaca, MX, where she spent four years immersing herself in the community and culture. Those four years brought wonderful opportunities which included working with local journalists to publish a book, "Lo Vimos Lo Vivimos", consisting of a collection of short stories, poems, chronicles and essays focused on the social movement in Oaxaca in 2006.

Nicole also studied the benefits of sustainable living while working with the Universidad de la Tierra (University of the Earth), and spent her last two years working for a local NCO called Coral as the Community & Early Detection Coordinator. Coral focused on providing diagnoses, treatment and support to people living with hearing loss. Nicole spent most of her time in rural communities helping identify children with hearing loss and supporting families of children with disabilities to build support networks and advocate for their rights.





Though her four years in Oaxaca were rewarding, Nicole felt that she wanted to make a bigger impact by focusing on systemic change.

This new path took her to the University of Minnesota where she received a Masters Degree in Public Health. While at U of M, Nicole was accepted into a fellowship program with Catholic Relief Services (CRS). During her fellowship with CRS, Nicole traveled the world to:

- Kenya: studied health practices and child protection.
- South Sudan: focused on projects in child protection and community-led development.
- Ecuador: helped offer support after the 2016 earthquake.
- South America, Ecuador, Perú, Bolivia and Columbia: worked with programs that supported agriculture, peace building, migration and emergency response.

In 2018, Nicole took a position as Deputy Head of Programs for CRS Guatemala and became Head of Programs in 2019. Since 2018, she has helped over 600,000 individuals by supporting programs in

agriculture, child protection, education, emergency response, disaster risk reduction, and migration.

As a fellow with CRS, Nicole found a home. As she states, "To work for an organization that is mission driven and constantly questions the why and how behind what they do, has been a blessing. I feel honored to work with a wonderful mission and truly live it. The work of organizations like CRS is transformative – we meet and support people in some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. No matter what their circumstance or who they are, our mission is to treat them with dignity and serve them."

Nicole plans on taking all she has learned at CRS with her as she begins her next adventure as the Country Director for Peru & Ecuador with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), a role she began in April 2024. She, her husband, Juan Ochoa, and their two-year old son recently relocated to Peru to explore the possibilities of this new journey. A journey that brings them closer to Juan's family and allows Nicole to continue her mission of serving others.

## Get To Know The Christian Life Club

### VIRGINIA MOOTZ & AMY BERGMANN

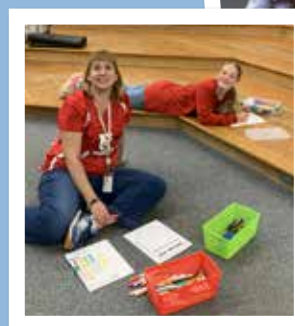
The 2023-24 school year brought a revival of the Newman Catholic Middle School Christian Life Club. This is more than just another club; it's an opportunity for all students to actively express their faith, engage in service, and foster leadership skills.

Our primary goal is to provide an opportunity for students to express their faith through service while also developing essential leadership and public speaking skills by allowing members to make special announcements to the individual homerooms and the entire school. Monthly meetings begin with prayer and a review of the mission statement: "Students will participate in service work for the global community, the greater Wausau area, and within the Newman community."

This year, we had an exciting lineup of service projects and events that align with our mission to serve both our local and global communities. From weekly greeters at Mass to organizing a hygiene drive for Catholic Schools Week, our members have numerous opportunities to embody the teachings of our Catholic faith and the Cardinal Character Traits.

Some highlights of our activities include decorating the cafeteria for the Veterans Day luncheon, creating an Advent bulletin board, and facilitating Lenten mite box collections. Additionally, we participated in two 50/50 raffles to raise funds for future service projects and initiatives.

The Christian Life Club isn't just about what we do; it's about who we become. We invite all students who are passionate about their faith and eager to make a difference to join us in this rewarding journey.





# Living Our Mission

## THROUGH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SHIRLEY HEISE & CALEB FEIDT

At Newman Catholic Elementary Schools, we are enhancing our mission of faith, service and academics with the support of social and emotional learning (SEL). SEL is an integral part of our daily life within the elementary schools.

To assist teachers and students with the teaching and learning of social-emotional skills, Newman Catholic Schools has adopted Second Step. Second Step, an initiative of the "Committee for Children", is a program created to guide teachers in supporting the development of positive behavior skills in their students, which in turn, will allow for a better classroom environment. When students have a positive sense of well-being, they are much more likely to engage in their academic work, have better self-control, and develop healthy relationships.

As school staff work to help students learn the concepts and skills associated with social-emotional wellness, Second Step also supports the teaching of empathy and respect; two key components in getting along in a world where kindness seems to have become less important than it once was. In a school community where we celebrate our Catholic faith every day, learning how to be kind and compassionate reflects our love for Jesus.



Social and emotional learning helps build community and a sense of belonging. In combination, our school community focuses on the whole child, the whole teacher, and the whole school and church community. The power and influence we have as we weave our Catholic faith, virtues, and emotional characteristics into our daily routines and interactions, promotes a stronger inner health for children which allow them to tackle the daily challenges and celebrations encountered. It gives all of us the vocabulary needed in our interactions with others and offers ways to appropriately engage with friends, family and staff.

Newman Catholic Schools supports all families, students and staff in their devotion to Christ and embeds critical elements of virtues, values, and connections that lift us up to be the best versions of ourselves. Come witness the difference in how SEL is more than just a program but an integral part of our school community.





# Creating Academic Superweapons

## ONE CLASS AT A TIME

### NCMS/HS SCHOOL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

*Passion:* the teacher's love for the task of educating people and for their students

*Collaboration:* active collaboration is particularly important for creating a growth-based learning environment and for increasing student learning progress.

By themselves, these two concepts are powerful but when combined, they offer an untouchable learning experience for students, and this is exactly the experience that the Science Department at Newman Catholic Middle & High School have strived to offer. Teachers created a learning environment that fosters academic competitiveness, where every student, no matter past achievements or struggles, can succeed. This is done by creating symmetry between subject matters and methods of teaching, ensuring that curriculum is connected and feeds into each other – curriculum symmetry.

When Mr. Jon Smith joined the Newman Catholic family for the 2022-2023 school year, he and Mrs. Sonja Gasper began an easy partnership that focused on working together to offer a more rigorous experience for the students. They have achieved this by embracing true collaboration; making sure that their curriculums align and help students master subject matters. Though methods of instruction may differ, their goal is the same, which is to create an environment in which students are encouraged to push themselves as well as work together to help each other succeed. Mr. Smith shared a great example of this, the Physics "Think Tank", a group of six students who meet and work together to solve ten questions/problems. The Think Tank offers an opportunity to strengthen their ability to work in a team and to build leadership when they take their turn as "CEO", a member designated at each gathering to keep the group on track.

Take this collaborative focus one step further by adding in the partnership with the 8th grade Physical Science class where Ms. Halle Vardon has adjusted the curriculum to ensure the groundwork is being laid for students to succeed when entering high school. For example, chemistry is a sophomore level course but Ms. Vardon introduces students to the subject matter. This gives them a leg up when they get to their sophomore year and are already familiar with basic concepts; which allows Mr. Smith to hit the ground running versus having to start with the basics.

Taking a symmetrical, collaborative approach to education offers a strong foundation for students to build upon. In essence, the program becomes college preparatory and ensures students are ready for post-secondary coursework. This is further enhanced by ensuring students are exposed to better resources and equipment which fosters efficiency, accuracy and better focus. Through independent donations and the Religious Care Foundation Grants, funding has been used to replace necessary equipment and to bring in updated resources to enhance the educational experience.

Newman Catholic Schools is blessed to have teachers dedicated to their students and passionate about the subject they teach. Teachers who ensure NCS students receive the best in Catholic education.





# Congratulations Class of 2024!

## SENIOR REFLECTION

### ADAM KRASOWSKI

On May 24th, the class of 2024 will graduate and leave Newman Catholic High School, possibly to never be together as a group ever again. Our class's graduation marks the beginning of the rest of our lives. Each member of our class has deeply benefited from Newman Catholic High School, some of us have been students in the system together since preschool. We are confident that because of our Catholic education deeply rooted in faith, service, and academics we will be ready to take on any challenge that our world presents to us.

We will forever be grateful for our teachers who led us by example, and taught us the skills and knowledge needed to prepare us for our future endeavors. We appreciate the school administration for facilitating an environment of personal growth and development. Additionally, we would like to thank all of the cooks, custodians, and support staff who maintained Newman's atmosphere as a safe, clean space for learning. Another group of people that we cannot thank enough is our

parents. Without the support of our families, very little would be possible.

From preschool at Saint Michael's, to elementary school at Saint Anne's and Saint Mark's, to seven years at Newman Catholic Middle and High School, our class has shared countless memories that are sure to last a lifetime. As a small class, we have become very closely bonded. We are not just friends, we are family. Members of the Newman Catholic High School class of 2024, represent the best that Newman Catholic has to offer. Our class is full of ambitious students who strive to better themselves day after day.

As we depart from over 12 years of education with Newman Catholic, the class of 2024 begins the next step in our journey toward greatness. We will not only work to be successful in this life, but we will continue to grow in holiness for the next.



Samuel Beaumont  
Daniel Beck  
Jedidiah Blum  
Maria Cicha  
Paige Guld

Anthony Hoffer  
Ashley Jankowski  
Adam Krasowski  
Matthew Meyer  
Benjamin Moua

Samuel Nelson  
Itiafa Odeyemi  
Alexis Repinski  
Hanna Seidl  
Matthew Sells

Adam Sikora  
Aiden Sychalla  
Ava Sukanen  
Hailey Tlusty  
Evan Zubke



# Legacy through Generations

When the Class of 2024 graduates on May 24, 2024, they will become Newman Catholic Schools' newest alumni class and will join the generations of family members who graduated before them. NCS is blessed to have so many families who have chosen a Catholic education for their children through the years.

## Daniel Beck

Andrew Beck (Brother), Class of 2017  
Matthew Beck (Brother), Class of 2020  
Samuel Beck (Brother), Class of 2022

## Maria Cicha

Anna Cicha (Sister), Class of 2021  
Gerard Cicha (Brother), Class of 2022

## Antony Hoffer

Paul Hoffer (Father), Class of 1983  
Sarrianna Hoffer (Sister), Class of 2018  
Annabella Hoffer (Sister), Class of 2021  
Terry Hoffer (Grandfather), Class of 1960  
Marilyn (Hoffer) Chesak (Great-Aunt), Class of 1955  
Marianne (Hoffer) Pocklington (Great-Aunt), Class of 1961  
Sharon (Hoffer) Verhoven (Great-Aunt), Class of 1964  
Chadwick Hoffer (Uncle), Class of 1981  
Colleen (Hoffer) Schmidt (Aunt), Class of 1984  
Tricia (Hoffer) Nelson (Aunt), Class of 1988

## Ashley Jankowski

Steve Jankowski (Father), Class of 1985  
Brianna Jankowski (Sister), Class of 2013  
Taylor Jankowski (Sister), Class of 2016

## Adam Krasowski

John Krasowski (Father), Class of 1984  
Ashley Krasowski (Sister), Class of 2018  
James Krasowski (Uncle), Class of 1983  
Carrie (Krasowski) Hansen (Aunt), Class of 1981

## Matt Meyer

Jessica Jones (Mother), Class of 1991  
Hannah Meyer (Sister), Class of 2017  
Lyle Jones (Grandfather), Class of 1960  
Bonnie Jones (Great Aunt), Class of 1966  
Jenny Jones (Aunt), Class of 1988  
Brea (Lemke) Grace (2nd Cousin), Class of 1994  
Shem Lemke (2nd Cousin), Class of 1996  
Shayna (Lemke) Pavlov (2nd Cousin), Class of 1999

## Benjamin Moua

Coua Moua (Sister), Class of 2008  
Xengkeng Moua (Brother), Class of 2009  
Pajng Moua (Sister), Class of 2014

## Sam Nelson

Nevaeh Nelson (Sister), Class of 2022

## Alexis Repinski

Taylor Repinski (Sister), Class of 2021

## Hanna Seidl

Steve Seidl (Father), Class of 1982  
Madelyn Seidl (Sister), Class of 2022  
Marcia (Seidl) Kangas (Aunt), Class of 1976  
Linda (Seidl) Wagner (Aunt), Class of 1978  
Mary (Kucirek) Seidl (Aunt), Class of 1985  
Paul Seidl (Uncle), Class of 1984  
Pam (Gregory) Seidl (Aunt), Class of 1986  
Mark Seidl (Uncle), Class of 1986  
Kevin Seidl (Uncle), Class of 1987  
Bob Wagner (Cousin), Class of 2006  
Andrew Wagner (Cousin), Class of 2009

## Aiden Spychalla

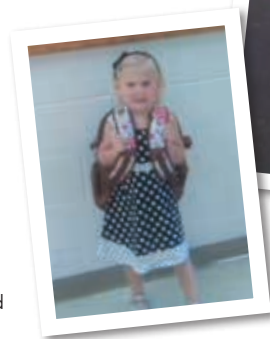
Nicole Boettcher (Aunt), Class of 1995  
Chris Spychalla (Uncle), Class of 1991  
Jody Spychalla (Uncle), Class of 1992

## Ava Sukanen

Teri (Gajewski) Sukanen (Mother), Class of 1992  
Ronald Gajewski (Grandfather), Class of 1961  
Sarah Sukanen (Sister), Class of 2019  
Grace Sukanen (Sister), Class of 2021  
Mike Gajewski (Uncle), Class of 1981  
John Gajewski (Uncle), Class of 1986  
Dave Radtke (Cousin), Class of 2002

## Evan Zubke

Emma Zubke (Sister), Class of 2020



## From Early Childhood to Graduation

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

**Paige Guld** - NCECC: St. Michael and  
NCES: St. Anne

**Adam Krasowski** - NCECC: St. Michael and  
NCES: St. Anne

**Matt Meyer** - NCECC: St. Michael and  
NCES: St. Mark

**Aiden Spychalla** - NCECC: St. Michael and  
NCES: St. Anne

**Ava Sukanen** - NCECC: St. Michael  
and NCES: St. Anne

**Hailey Tlusty** - NCES: St. Mark

**Evan Zubke** - NCECC: St. Michael and  
NCES: St. Anne





# Legenza Family Legacy

## SARA (LEGENZA) MATUSHAK CLASS OF 2004

The legacy of any family begins where the heart beats the strongest and that for my family is our Catholic faith. My mother Debbie's parents, Violette and Victor Behring, believed strongly in the Catholic faith as did my father Wally's parents, Walter and Mary Legenza. The seed of faith my grandparents planted was able to be cared for in the hands of the Catholic educational system. My mother attended Catholic school from kindergarten through graduation from Newman High School, and my father attended St. Paul's in Mosinee. They knew when they started a family they would seek out the same faith-based education that brought them so much joy and enriched their lives.

Because of the positive experience they had, our parents chose Wausau Area Catholic Schools (WACS) for their children because they wanted Catholic values demonstrated in all subjects. With the small classroom sizes and the passionate, faith-filled teachers, they knew that their children would thrive. Debbie and Wally ensured their daughters, Amber, Sara, Brittney and Maria, attended school from elementary school through high school in the WACS system. From each passing year in school, they witnessed their daughters strengthening their relationship with God and deepening their faith.

When it came time for each of us Legenza sisters to send our children to school, we had a simple choice. Amber knew how much she loved making lifelong friends and how the school setting helped her thrive. For myself, I knew how much I loved my teachers and the school size, making friends across grade levels. Brittney came back to Wausau and knew she wanted her children to be around family and faith. It is such a joy for all of us to know our children are surrounded by cousins while at school. Maria, the youngest sister, expressed that if she had kids there is no question they too would experience the fun and love she felt during her years at Newman.

Our family has maintained a strong bond with the Newman Catholic Schools system, volunteering in various

areas. Amber helps as a Girl Scout Leader at NCES: St. Anne. Brittney volunteers at the school on her days off from work. Myself, I try to attend and help at as many classroom and school events as possible and come most Fridays after work to help. It is such a wonderful experience to see seven of the eight Legenza grandchildren at one school this year. They feel so much joy seeing each other in class and in the halls, and are there to support each other when they need it.

When you choose a school for your child it isn't always an easy discernment but for the Legenza family it was a clear choice; choosing the Newman Catholic Schools system where they knew their children's faith would only bloom and grow stronger. Mother Teresa said, "The child is the beauty of God present in the world, that greatest gift to a family." For the Legenzas, we have been blessed with eight children/grandchildren who have felt their faith strengthen through Newman Catholic Schools and the faith formation programs. We know that anyone who takes the opportunity to explore a Newman Catholic Schools education won't be disappointed. As our legacy continues, we hope that these eight children will find it in their hearts to come back to Wausau and choose NCS for the next generation.





# Giving Back at University of Minnesota

## ATHLETIC MANAGERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

This past fall, three of Newman Catholic High Schools alumni worked for the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers athletics program. Charlie Shields, Class of 2022, Eli Gustafson, Class of 2023, and Jackson Pfender, Class of 2023, were able to take part in this unique experience to work with teams in sports that they love. During the fall of 2023, Charlie worked with the Women's Volleyball Team and Eli and Jackson both worked with the Women's Basketball program. When asked about their experiences, the alumni shared:

### WHAT IS YOUR ROLE WITH THE TEAMS?

**Charlie:** My main role is to assist at practices, whether it be shagging balls for the girls, setting up and taking down nets or setting up team drills! I also make sure that all equipment is in top shape and safe for use.

**Eli & Jackson:** Both assist the team as practice players which means that they step in as scout players, mimic the other team's plays and players and are given a chance to sit on the bench during games to lend assistance where needed.

### WHAT INTERESTED YOU IN HELPING THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM?

**Charlie:** At the time I applied for the position, I was highly interested in a career in the sports management field. At many universities, if you are majoring in sports management you usually have a "practicum", which in my case was a certain number of hours over the course of two years where I was working with a sports team on campus. You're even able to get class credit if you choose to use working with a sports team as your practicum.

**Eli & Jackson:** When asked of their choice, both Eli and Jackson shared that when they heard about the opportunity they saw it as a way to continue playing basketball, a sport they both loved and played throughout their lives. Plus, it sounded like fun and you get to work in cool facilities!

### WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR EXPERIENCE?

**Charlie:** Some of my favorite parts of working with a division one program have been the connections and friendships I have made with not only the players, but also the coaching staff. They have been so welcoming and truly care about me on and off the court. I love post practice chats with the girls, as well as all of the free meals on game days! My favorite experience thus far has been traveling with the team to Indiana where we took the match in a five-set thriller!

**Eli:** The biggest thing for me has been making new friends through the experience. I have created some awesome friendships with others on the practice squad with me. I have also become very good friends with some of the players which is such a cool part of it. They are some of my best friends.

**Jackson:** A key highlight was sitting behind the bench for the UCONN game when the whole arena was sold out and the game had so much energy. Another, the first time practicing in Williams arena which was so much fun for me.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO CURRENT NCHS STUDENTS PLANNING FOR COLLEGE LIFE?

**Charlie:** If you are interested in getting involved with a club, sports team, or really any on campus organization, communicate ALL of your interests to your advisor! They aren't just there to help you pick classes, you can ask them anything and they are always so helpful and can set you up for great success in your future.

**Eli:** There is nothing hurt by putting yourself in uncomfortable positions. It helps you grow in ways that you won't even know and experience things that you wouldn't have been able to experience. Take a chance!

**Jackson:** Getting involved in college is very important to continue good habits and staying committed to your goals.







# Class of 1977 Give Back Campaign

## DAVID CYRS CLASS OF 1977

When asked by the NCS Advancement & Alumni Office to share about the Class of 1977 Give Back Campaign, it had me considering why we decided to start the class drive. In my world of financial planning I have watched as conversations with clients have evolved more and more towards legacy and estate planning. I have also witnessed firsthand the undeniable joy people receive when supporting a cause that means something to them. So, when our class started planning for our 45th class reunion, casual conversations began about how often we are asked to donate to this or that organization so why not support a cause that was meaningful in our lives. Giving back in thanks to the many who sacrificed their time, talent and funding to ensure we could have a positive experience that helped propel us into our own successful lives.

One of the greatest gifts the Class of 1977 ever received has been the enduring friendships through so many years and through varied, sometimes tumultuous, life events. We are all blessed by the ties that came from our Newman Catholic Schools experience and from Newman Catholic High School in particular. We are also very aware of the importance of the values that a Catholic based Newman Catholic education seeded within us. It was foundational. As life experiences affect us, it becomes our core values that continue to provide a rudder to the boat. They help buffer the storms we all

experience and allow us to come out the other side. So, giving back to the school that gave so much to us is truly paying it forward.

Though we all came from different elementary schools and parishes, we all came together at Newman Catholic High School so we decided to try to memorialize that before our 50th anniversary. It is so important to celebrate the goodness of life in a world increasingly focused on all the negative. Our hope is to celebrate a 50th year of coming together as a grateful group of graduates and friends who want to make a collective positive difference and yes FIND THE GOOD.

As of today, we stand at over \$26,000 dollars raised and we are not done. Together we are paying it forward and demonstrating what it means to GIVE BACK to future Newman Catholic students. Even more impactful will be the hope that we inspire other classes to also establish and initiate such an effort where a pebble in the water develops a wave of continued support.

Our hope is that participating in the Class of 1977 Give Back Campaign will make a tangible difference and will keep the memories of our classmates who have passed alive. Why not pick up the challenge, find the good, and leave a legacy.







# *Invest in Your Legacy*

Using IRA Distributions to Support the Students of NCS

Do you have an individual retirement account (IRA)? Are you 70 1/2 or older? If yes to both, then you likely know that you must take your required minimum distribution (RMD) before the year ends, but did you know that you can avoid paying taxes and decrease your taxable income by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), also known as an IRA Charitable Rollover, is a nontaxable distribution of up to \$105,000 made directly to a qualified charitable organization. **Help further the mission of Newman Catholic Schools by making a QCD!**

Though QCDs do not qualify for a charitable deduction, they do count towards your required minimum distribution. For this reason and those laid out below, making a charitable contribution from your IRA is truly advantageous.

## **Making a QCD means**

- You will pay no income tax on your gift
- You can help support your favorite causes
- Your gift can help build your charitable legacy
- You can use your IRA in the way you want

*Double Your Benefits While Supporting the Students of Newman Catholic Schools!*

**Contact Us to Learn More:  
Advancement & Alumni Office**

Newman Catholic Schools  
715-842-4805

[officedevelopment@newmancatholicschools.com](mailto:officedevelopment@newmancatholicschools.com)





# Continued Focus on Safety and Security

## SYSTEM-SIDE INITIATIVE

In 2018, Newman Catholic Schools joined schools across the state to strengthen the safety and security of school buildings. Through the Department of Justice's Safety Grant initiative, NCS secured funding to improve safety standards by adding cameras throughout buildings, applying security film to exterior doors, replacing locks and doors in need of repair and sending faculty and staff to state sponsored training sessions. Taking advantage of the Safety Grant program allowed NCS to take first steps in improving safety and security throughout its buildings, ensuring students learn in a safe and comforting environment.

Next steps will be taken during the summer of 2024 with a full-system focused safety and security improvement project. The project will consist of four key areas which will further enhance safety in all buildings. Work will kick off at the end of the school year, to be completed by the end of summer in preparation for the students' return for the 2024-25 school year.

Safety and security upgrades will be fully funded through donations raised during the Winter Wonderland Fund-a-Need and through private donations made to the system's annual fund drive. Thank you to the generous benefactors who are helping to fund these much needed improvements.

Thank you also goes out to the NCES: St. Anne families who donated to the fence project; the addition of a security fence with locked gates around the school's playground area. A project that has been on the needs list for many years finally came to fruition thanks to the support of St. Anne Parish and through the generosity of many.

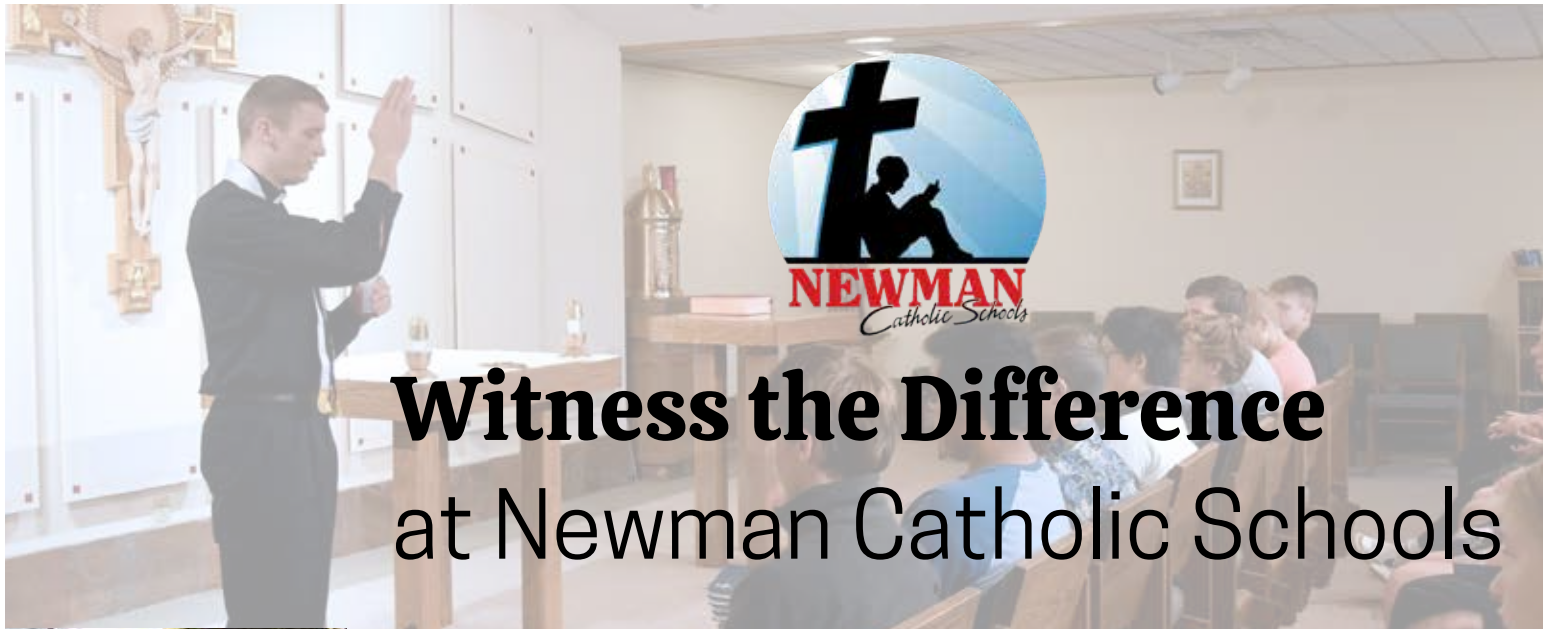
Working together, the students of Newman Catholic Schools will have the comfort of growing in faith and knowledge in safe and secure buildings.

*"The safety of children always comes first"*  
— Andres Alonso

### Summer 2024 Safety & Security Project

- **Security Film** - Adding security film to classroom windows, interior and exterior doors not covered during DOJ grant cycle.
- **Security Cameras** - Adding cameras to expand coverage and remove blind spots, replace equipment and upgrade software.
- **Doors & Locks** - Replacement of doors and locks to ensure entry points meet safety standards.
- **Phone System** - Replacing phone systems at NCES: St. Mark & NCES: St. Anne to bring all schools linked across the NCS System.





# Witness the Difference at Newman Catholic Schools

*Enroll now for the  
2024-2025 school year!*

**Newman Catholic Schools offers an education embraced by**

- **FAITH** where students grow as Christians, both individually and as a community
- A culture of **SERVICE** where students live God’s word by giving of themselves to others
- Rigorous **ACADEMICS** enhanced with social-emotional learning

**Visit [newmancatholicschools.com](http://newmancatholicschools.com) to learn more!**

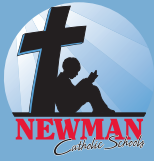
“*We appreciate the dedicated staff who truly care about each student. We enjoy being part of the greater Newman community where families become friends. We are confident that our children are getting a well-rounded education that will prepare them for future schooling and beyond.*”

*Patrick & Mindy France*

**Newman Catholic Schools fosters disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics.**







## 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.





Newman Catholic High School  
*Class of 2024 Graduation*  
 Friday, May 24, 2024



*Congratulations Seniors!*



**COME ON OUT FOR  
 NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS'  
 FAMILY NIGHT  
 AT THE**



SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024  
 VS. WISCONSIN RAPIDS RAFTERS  
 FIRST PITCH 6:05 PM

**More information coming soon!**

## Summer Youth Mission Trip

 June 16-22, 2024  
 Lincoln, IL



For more information and to register  
 by May 10, go to:  
[www.stanneswausau.org/missiontrips](http://www.stanneswausau.org/missiontrips)



Newman Catholic Booster Club

## SwingFest

Dual Cup Scramble



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Friday, July 19, 2024  
 Noon Shotgun Start



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



Newman Catholic Schools  
1130 W Bridge Street  
Wausau, WI 54401



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

