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### Cardinal Newman: 1985-1989

Through 60 years, Cardinal Newman High School has educated students in the wholeness of body, mind, and soul. Despite many alterations to the curriculum and student and faculty bodies, this mission statement has stood strong. However, the school and community itself have undergone many changes. Recent events like the merging of Ursuline, the 2017 fires, and COVID are just a few of the many that have significantly transformed the school. However, despite all of these changes, many similarities lie between the era of mullets, feathered hair, and spandex of Cardinal Newman and Ursuline High School from 1985 to 1989 and the era of baggy and tight clothing, jeans, and long, messy haircuts of Cardinal Newman High School today.

Sports have always been a strong source of Newman pride, the main ones being basketball and football. During the late 80s, almost the entire student body would support and cheer on the football team. Similar to today, there would be different themes and different chants. The Homecoming game always brought a lot of attention, not just from students but from alumni too. Homecoming Queen is a very important tradition of today, but back then, this title was coupled with the Homecoming King, who sometimes played in the football game. However, Queens extended beyond dances to the annual Rose City Tournament for Varsity Boys Basketball. During the late 80s, the talented basketball team won the tournament in three consecutive years: 1986, 1987, and 1988. Moreover, the 1988-1989 team was extremely successful and even brought the first-ever Cardinal Newman win in the Sonoma County Classic

Tournament. They couldn't have done it without the incredibly spirited student section, one more spirited than can be found currently, which earned an award for its amazing support.

This spirit transferred to rallies as well. Students would go all-out to dress appropriately for the theme. Whether it was character day or Halloween, costumes could always be found on the Cardinal Newman and Ursuline campuses. Rallies were full of games like tug-of-war, dance battles, cheerleading, and sports, especially the senior class versus faculty games. Yearly, there would be one of these for football and another for basketball, and they were always electric. The athletic faculty evenly matched the students, and sometimes even defeated them. Similar to modern times, rallies would happen before important school events, like dances.

Dances used to be much less strict than they are today. There were fewer faculty monitoring behavior and more freedom for the students. The current dance attendance is high, but in the late 80s, every student would go. However, unlike today, there were no students from other schools allowed without special permission. This rule remained for every dance, including Homecoming, Prom, and Sadie Hawkins, a dance that no longer occurs at Cardinal Newman where girls would ask boys. Other popular events like the Father-Daughter Dance and Mother-Son Brunch remain popular at modern Cardinal Newman.

Clubs have lost their popularity in recent years. However, this was much different in the late 80s at Cardinal Newman and Ursuline. The Debate Club, Block Club, Ski Club, French Club, Journalism, and the Knights of Newman are just a few of the clubs that were extremely popular during the 80s era. Like current clubs, many came and went yearly, like the Italian Club, Fitness Club, and Baseball Club. Although clubs were much more prevalent in the 80s, they were still student-made and run, and present-day clubs follow the same model in order to be enacted. One thing that has remained consistent is student government. Until 1987, elected class officials

were part of the Student Council. Ursuline and Cardinal Newman had their own councils, but, similar to modern times, every grade had a distinct one with governing positions. However, during the 1987 to 1988 school year, the name was changed from Student Council to the title of ASB which has remained the same since.

Similarly, the dress code has not changed much since the late 80s. Cardinal Newman required boys to wear a polo and monochrome pants. Although they were unable to wear jeans, there was still freedom in the shoe choice – which included duck shoes and high-top Converse – and the jacket choice. Many athletes wore lettermen, but college hoodies and crewnecks were and still are very popular and are worn often to display which university seniors want to or will attend. As for Ursuline, the girls were required to wear a uniform consisting of a herringbone tweed skirt and a polo shirt. Although the normal dress code has undergone changes, the liturgy one has not.

Like today, liturgy and mass events occurred monthly. For boys, the dress code has stayed almost the same. Although a button-down white-collared shirt with a tie or bowtie and khaki pants remain, liturgies of the late 80s also required students to wear dressy shoes. Some boys even opted to wear an entire suit. For girls, the dress code was and remains similar to boys. However, a herringbone tweed skirt was also an option, and girls were and still are not required to wear ties.

Although liturgies sometimes happened during class retreats, these were special occasions where the uniform didn't stand. Similar to today, older classes had longer retreats, and they combined the students of Ursuline and Cardinal Newman. Faculty emphasized the importance of finding new eyes that students could use to see and understand their family, friends, and faith. Through small groups and discussions, students explored the hearts and souls

of those near to them and allowed God to enter their lives, and these activities are still continued on modern retreats. Moreover, teachers and students utilized retreats as a way to recharge their academic batteries and take a break from the constant grind of school.

In an era of revolutionary technology, there were many classes in the late 80s that differed from those offered today. For Cardinal Newman, students had more choices in their curriculum, but the somewhat structured schedule for Ursuline still allowed students to choose some classes and electives. During the late 80s, Cardinal Newman and Ursuline offered very few AP and Honors classes, the only ones being Honors Economics, Honors Government, Honors Trigonometry, and AP Calculus. Even with these offered, they needed enough students to sign up to become an actual class, and, contrary to the academically challenging schedules of today, this rarely happened. However, there were a variety of classes that are no longer offered, such as sewing, food and nutrition, photography, speech, typing, computers, and driver's education. Since the late 80s, the amount of difficult classes has increased, but the diverse options for electives have dwindled.

Although years have passed since the late 80s, many things at Cardinal Newman High School remain the same. In 1986, 1987, and 1988, the Ursuline Bears Varsity Girls Basketball Team was unrivaled and won the league championship. Today, the Varsity Girls Basketball Team continues this legacy and has been deemed one of the best teams in Northern California multiple times. Although the games and events at rallies have changed, one chant has been in use since the late 80s: "We've got spirit yes we do. We've got spirit how bout you?" In the classroom, modern teachers and ones from the late 80s dislike students who are negative, complain about grades, are unconcerned about their future, or are selfish, rude, unkind, or cheaters. On the contrary, teachers did and still love to see students smiling and engaging in classes. However, no

matter the student, one thing has remained the same, and that is procrastination. Sunday night was and still is the time for students to complete all of their homework from the weekend, and finals week was and is when students begin begging for extra credit to boost their grades. This may come from the fact that students from both the 80s and modern eras work jobs during the school year, which although difficult to balance, help them prepare for the future.

The history of Cardinal Newman and Ursuline defines the school today. The rich community full of bright students and supportive teachers has built up the school year after year. Incredible sports teams and talented athletes never fail to bring the community together and bolster the reputation of the school. Although the years 1985 through 1989 are just a small piece of the Cardinal Newman puzzle, they have played a huge role in shaping the school into the incredible place that it is today.