

Rachel Chen

Mr. Rutherford

Oxford Scholars

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### Cardinal Newman High School from 1964-1969

This time period begins with the freshman year of Cardinal Newman's first graduating class, the class of 1968. The class was made up of around 60 students, and the freshman class of '65 had about 50. In September of 1964, the school was brand new and evidently small, so new traditions were being made every day at the hands of students and faculty.

One thing that remained a tradition is how Newman strives to train the mind, the body and the soul. How Newman has trained the mind has changed over the years; today, Newman is a college preparatory school, but even without the title, it did an excellent job preparing students for the job force. In 1964, classrooms were still being built, so students went to the nearby all-girls Ursuline High School for classes. In 1965 however, the brand-new classrooms were completed. Classes were taught primarily by priests and brothers from a missionary order, the Order of Precious Blood. All the alumni had nothing but good things to say about them despite them being trained as missionaries rather than teachers. One student even found his career path because of a class taught by a father. Father Vollmer taught an architecture drafting class that helped one student to realize his talent and hone it. During his senior year, he received an offer for a drafting job at Fluor Corporation, an engineering and construction services firm. That wouldn't have been possible without Newman's unique class offerings. Today, Newman offers specialized classes such as exercise science and agricultural biology. Classes like these enable

students to explore unique interests and learn a wide range of subjects, which may lead to finding their future career.

Other opportunities given at Newman were team sports, which serve to train the body. By 1967, Newman offered baseball, basketball, football, golf, tennis and track. There weren't any sports for the first two years of Newman's existence, but football started in 1966 at Newman. One alum recalls how their Latin teacher at the time, Father Grever, announced to his freshman Latin class that he had just hired a football coach out of his excitement for the new program at Newman. Just like back then, administration is heavily invested in the happiness and success of Newman students and working to give students new programs and opportunities.

When sports did start up, everyone was needed for sports teams, no matter their level of experience because of the small size of the school. Many of the athletes had no experience playing at a high school level; the football team had two players with high school experience out of 24 players! Despite this, the teams performed well under the leadership of the illustrious Coach Ed Lloyd. Alumni described him as a kind, hard-working man who had a good sense of humor even when someone messed up. Newman's football field is named after him, for good reason; with him as the Cardinals' football coach, they didn't lose a season until 1985.

The first game in the history of the football program at Newman was against Clearlake. Newman won, and it got great media coverage by the Press Democrat. A later game resulted in a huge party thrown by CN for the opposing team from St. Bernards of Eureka. Although sports are competitive by nature, Newman has always taught its athletes to be respectful to the other team and connect with them. My cross-country coach freshman year required that we shook the hand of every runner on the opposing team, looked them in the eye and said "Good race." This set all of us up to have the mindset of "How can we make the world a better place?"

The third goal of Newman is to train the soul, which is accomplished through the way our community interacts. Parents would prepare field for games and practice every day when the school was starting out. They also assisted with a hot dog lunch every week for the students. Newman didn't have a cafeteria yet, so students brought their own lunch for every day except for hot dog lunch days. Currently, Newman has a cafeteria staffed by Epicurean, but parents organize team dinners or barbeques after meets and seasons. This shows the generous hearts of the parents at Newman, to give so much time and effort towards supporting Newman students.

Newman students also spend a lot of time encouraging each other. Every team is like a family, where they spend time together, bond and look out for each other. All students are part of a family, solely by their membership at Newman. Many alum mentioned that their closest friends are from Newman, and that they're still in contact, despite graduating together over 60 years ago. One alum said that he still meets with other Newman and Ursuline grads, and some of the teachers often. Newman is truly a family that wants everyone in it to succeed and be happy.

The way our community behaves is representative of how Christ loves, and everything Newman does is to educate the spirit. Students, faculty and parents alike all display how Christ wants us to be in community with each other and love each other.

Cardinal Newman High School gives a complete education that prepares its graduates for life in the real world, by teaching them to utilize their talents while representing God to everyone they meet.

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