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Cardinal Newman 2010 to 2014

Cardinal Newman High School experienced tremendous change between 2010 and 2014.

These years marked a major chapter in the school's history, as the longstanding partnership with Ursuline High School ended in their merger. This transition, along with a spirited student life and the traditions of both schools, created a unique environment for growth, challenge, and camaraderie.

During this period, one of the hallmarks of Newman was the close-knit communities made through shared experiences. For student-athletes, tradition ran deep, "We used to set up tents, play games, and have really great bonding conversations," remembered one alumna about the Varsity soccer's annual camping trip to the beach. Moments like these didn't only forge lifelong friendships they also represented the lessons of teamwork and bonding that the school imparted. It extended well beyond the soccer field, encompassing the tradition, sportsmanship, and unity that were part of school culture.

The most defining event of this era was the combination of Cardinal Newman and Ursuline High School. Ursuline had been a sister school to Newman for decades, sharing resources while maintaining separate identities. The announcement of Ursuline's closure at the end of the 2010-11 school year shocked many. Students initially met the news with resistance, as evident in the protests from Ursuline students who feared losing unique traditions that their school developed over the many years.

While the news was difficult to process, the transition was relatively smooth, because of the preexisting relationship between the two schools. Juniors and seniors already attended co-ed classes, which helped the shift. However, for Ursuline students, the merger signified the end of an era. One graduate described it as bittersweet, stating, "It is sad to think and know that Ursuline traditions and education are not happening anymore. But being part of the first co-ed graduating class at Cardinal Newman was special."

Daily life at Cardinal Newman reflected the typical experiences of high school students, with its own quirks and routines. Students navigated a rigorous schedule of academics, sports, and extracurricular activities. A graduate recalled parking in a dirt lot near the Ursuline buildings and often hiding their collared shirt under a sweatshirt, a playful nod to the school's dress code. Favorite classes included English and Math, while Religion classes, though foundational to the school's mission, sometimes struggled to engage all students.

Sports also played a key role in shaping student life. Cardinal Newman was renowned for its robust athletics program, with students participating in a variety of sports, including basketball, soccer, tennis, softball, and many others. Many athletes balanced school sports with competitive club programs and rigorous academic workloads. One alumna highlighted the prominence of club soccer, noting that it often took priority over high school teams for college recruitment.

The merger of Cardinal Newman and Ursuline was a clear turning point for the community, but other events also shaped student experiences. One event was the Community-Based Service Learning (CBSL) project, a requirement for seniors aimed at fostering leadership and service. For one graduate, this project sparked a lifelong passion for

working with youth. They reflected, "My CBSL project at Cloverleaf Ranch kickstarted my passion for making a positive impact with kids. It was my first leadership role and a defining moment for my future career as a teacher." This emphasis on service extended beyond individual projects, embedding a sense of responsibility and community in the student body. Sports, service, and academics intertwined to create a well-rounded education, even in the middle of significant change.

Looking back, the years between 2010 and 2014 were a time of growth and adaptation for Cardinal Newman High School. The merger was both a loss and a gain Ursuline's traditions left behind but the combined school became stronger promoting a co-ed community with a renewed sense of purpose. For students navigating this transition, the experience was a challenging but also a very rewarding time.

One alumna recounted the supportive environment of the school, saying that while it helped them to excel in high school, the transition from high school to college academics showed areas for growth. Still, the relationships formed, the lessons learned, and the resilience developed during this time left a permanent mark on their lives. As they put it, "I hope the community and camaraderie are still strong."

Cardinal Newman High School's journey during these transformative years shows the power of tradition, adaptation, and community. Whether through cherished memories of soccer camping trips, challenges that came along with combining the schools, or the lifelong lessons of leadership and service, this period in time shaped a generation of students who carried its values forward into their futures.