

# Newman News

*With Christ our Cornerstone and rooted in our Catholic faith, Newman Central Catholic High School fosters spiritual development, academic excellence, responsibility to self, and service to others.*

**FALL 2019**

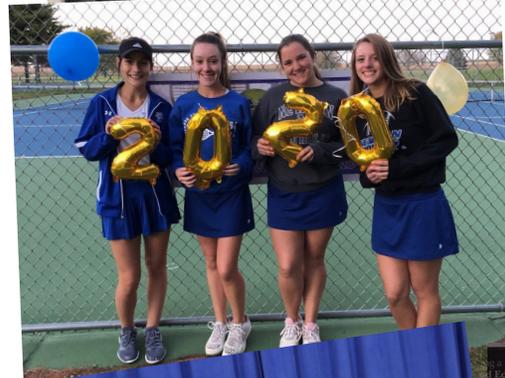
Be it know to all who enter here that **CHRIST** is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever present teacher in its classes. He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.



## SAVE THE DATE:

- November 27-29  
Thanksgiving Vacation
- December 21-  
January 5  
Christmas Break
- January 17- 8th  
Grade Day
- January 20- No  
School—Martin  
Luther King, Jr.  
Day
- January 26-31  
Catholic Schools  
Week

## Fun in the Fall at NHS!





*"He will make  
sure that I  
always have  
everything I  
need with  
plenty left over  
to share with  
others." - 2  
Corinthians 9:8*

## Many Thanks and Blessings

Dear Family and Friends of Newman Central Catholic High School,

Thank you to all who donated to Newman during the 2018-2019 school year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The donated funds have been applied to benefit all of our students and faculty in many ways including: 1. Assistance to students with tuition needs, 2. Technology advancements as we move to one-to-one, 3. New classroom doors to meet safety codes and 4. Security cameras throughout and around the building. We continue to improve our safe environment and to provide a quality educational experience for our students here at Newman.

Newman has experienced a decline in enrollment which is evident among Catholic High Schools across the state of Illinois. There are many variables that come into play with the enrollment issue. Tuition is one of those variables. Newman has the lowest tuition out of all the high schools in the Rockford Diocese. We try to keep it affordable as we feel a Catholic education is vital to the development of our youth. Our current enrollment is 208 down from 222 students last year. Tuition at Newman Central Catholic High School is \$4,500. This school year we had 31 students receive tuition assistance which equaled \$54,500 and 86 students who benefited from \$121,095 in scholarships. During this time of our Annual Appeal we hope that you, our families and alumni, will continue to support our efforts with your prayerful contribution.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all,

Jennifer Oetting, Class of 1988

Superintendent/Principal

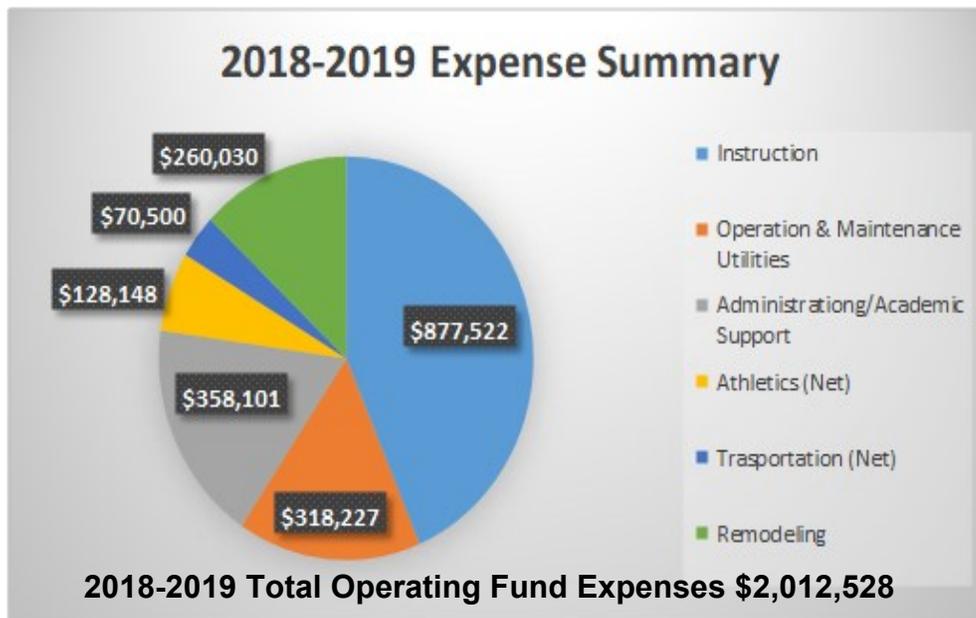
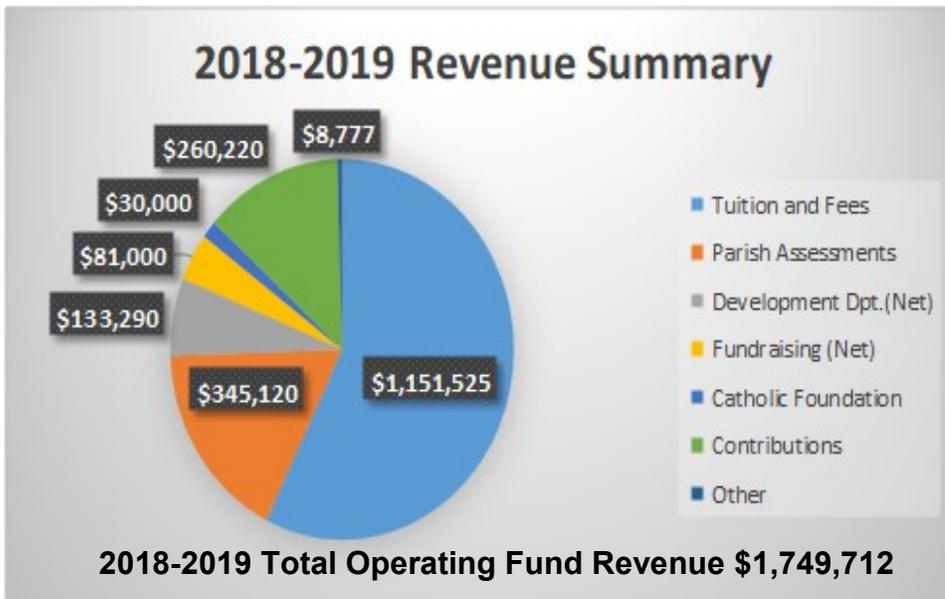


Tim Nelson, Class of 1985

Director of Development/Admissions



# Operating Fund



**Fiscal Year End Loss \$175,063**



*With Christ our  
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rooted in our  
Catholic faith, ...*

# Comet Connections

We are again implementing our Comet Connections program. Comet Connections pairs students and staff members in an effort to ensure that everyone feels included and has an adult to reach out to right here in the building. Each staff member is grouped with 6-8 students. The beauty of this program is that there are no requirements. The program is for the stu-



dents. What each student

wants to put in is their choice. The staff loves this program.

“It gives me a chance to connect with students that I may not normally come into contact with.” says Mrs. Vorhees.

Some of the groups meet for social time and snacks. Some challenge other groups to sporting events. No matter what each group does, the important thing is the connections being made and the value of feeling and being included.

# J A Titans

Newman’s business team brought home \$2000 in student scholarship money through the JA Titans competition. The team competed in Davenport, Iowa against area Illinois and Iowa schools taking home 3rd place!



Pictured L to R are: Dean El-lorando, Kyle Tunink, John Simpson, Shannon Weir and their faculty advisor Mrs. Rhodes.

# Newman Knitters

In her 18th year of teaching at Newman, Mrs. Verdick has introduced a new club, Newman Knitters. The students are learning stitches and making caps and blankets to distribute to hospitals and nursing homes over the Christmas Season. Learning a new craft and giving back are a perfect combination. Keep stitching!



# Science Club



The Science Club, led by Miss Cook, meets bi-monthly during homeroom. They have been busy problem –solving, engineering and exploring physics concepts. The members have challenged each other in tower, bridge and marshmallow launcher building competitions. Science is fun!



# eSports



There's a new game in town! Under the advisement of Mr. Ryan Sotelo, there is now an eSports team at Newman Central Catholic. The team is in the beginning stages and is evolving quite nicely. In early November, the team hosted a Super Smash Bros. tournament for Nintendo Switch. Stay tuned for news about future tournaments !



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# Math Team

Mr. Sotelo is also keeping busy with the Math Club and Math Team. The students meet two to three times a month and cover concepts and properties. They enjoy some social time as they prepare for their competitive season. Pictured are the members who attended the State Competition in Spring of 2019.



# Volleyball

The volleyball team finished another successful season going 27-4-3. They were undefeated conference champions, finished 2nd at the Rock Falls and Sterling Tournaments and placed 3rd at the Eastland Tournament. Aidan Brown and Sierra Williams made the all-tournament team at the Eastland tournament. The team won the Eastland Regional defeating Rockford Christian Life and Eastland. Their season came to an end losing to Gale-

na in the Sectional semifinals.

All Conference selections were Aidan Brown and Kiley Sanders— Unanimous 1st Team; Macaire Brown and Sierra Williams—2nd Team; Erin Kelly— Honorable Mention.



*“With Christ our Cornerstone and rooted in our Catholic faith...”*



# Football

After the retirement of Coach Papoccia last season, the Blue Machine returned this year under the help of former assistant coach and defensive coordinator, Brandon Kreczmer. While bringing fresh ideas to the program, Kreczmer along with the returning coaching staff have maintained the many traditions that have made Newman football the successful program

that it is today. With the graduation of several players, this season found the Blue Machine needing to step up to the



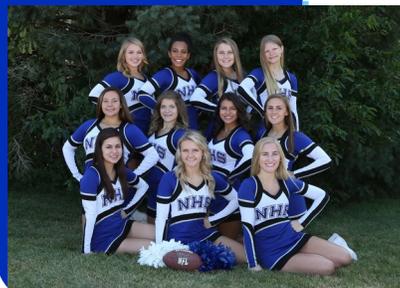
plate and they did not disappoint. Facing several tough and physical teams, the program ended conference play with an 8-1 record. Learning from mistakes and supporting one another has strengthened the teams resolve as they enter post season play in their march toward state! At the time of this publication the Blue Machine is facing Fieldcrest on Nov. 23rd in the semi-final game.

# Cheerleading

The 2019 Football Cheer team had a great season. They started out in the summer at UCA Cheer camp at Illinois State University. The Fresh/Soph squad saw many new faces who had not cheered before and they showed tremendous improvement throughout the season. They received a lot of awards at Cheer Camp and the two senior captains, Mattea Bianchi

and Sierra Williams were nominated for all-American cheer. During the football season, we performed half-time dances and a lot of different sideline dances, cheers and stunts. These dance performances included flip stunts, big pyramid stunts and tumbling. They also did big basket tosses in the air.

The cheerleaders perform our Loyalty song before every home game and Mattea, Sierra and Bella Trancoso sing the National Anthem each home game. Fresh/Soph cheered a different night but did well on their own being a new squad. They enjoyed attending Mass with the football team and having team dinners or treats on the bus.



# Cross Country



2019 Newman Comets Cross Country Team

Coach Pat Warkins reports, “The Cross Country team has had a good season. We have been fighting a lot of injuries through the year but the kids have stepped up when needed. We are a young team made up of mostly Sophomores and Freshmen. We have 13 boys and 5 girls out this season. The boys finished 4th in the conference and the girls did not field a full team for the race. We had 2 all conference runners, senior Ben Sheats and freshman Gianna

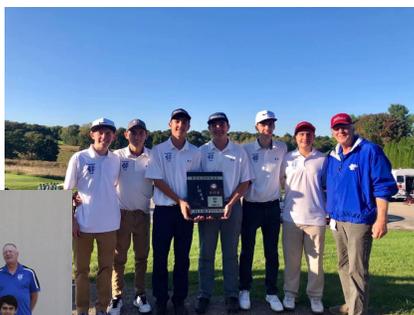
Widolff. We just completed the regional meet on October 26th with both teams qualifying for sectionals. The girls were lead by Karlie Hey who placed 4th overall and the boys by Senior Ben Sheats. I am very happy with the effort the kids have shown and look forward to seeing them improve throughout their high school careers.”



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# Golf

The 2019 Golf Team enjoyed their first season with Coach Knack. The team clinched the Regional Championship and sent one golfer on to state. Congratulations on a great season!



# Tennis

The Lady Comets Tennis Team started the year with a new coaches, Head Coach Gabi Trujillo and Assistant Coach Lupita Serrano. The Varsity team ended the season 7-6. The doubles team of Maddy Ryan and Sydney Schott made a trip to the State Tennis Tournament.

The ladies voted for team awards that were presented at their banquet last week. The awards went to : Avery Meyer, MVP; Sydney Schott, Leadership Award; Sarah Tunink received the Dedication Award and Riley Dunn won Most Improved.



**INTERESTED IN AN e-NEWSLETTER INSTEAD? EMAIL US [DEVELOPMENT@NEWMANCCHS.ORG](mailto:DEVELOPMENT@NEWMANCCHS.ORG)**

# National Honor Society

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the Marion Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed twenty-five new members. In order to be selected, students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and demonstrate the qualities of character, leadership and service. The new inductees were given heartfelt, personalized introductions by the current members of the National Honor Society at the ceremony. Congratulations to all!



## Fall 2019 Inductees:

Adrian Ackert

Jake Ackman

Sherlynn Brown

Will Cheng

Allie Foster

Caitlin Foust

Claire Glauzel

Catie Haenni

Brynlee Hermeyer

Priscilla Jackley

Jordan Morthland

Nate Neubauer

Mallory Newberry

Mia Newman

Katie Noble

Brady Partington

Fernanda Reyes-Zamora

Skylar Savage

Bella Tancoso

Andrew Velasquez

Maddy Verdick

Blake Wolfe

Emma Yde

Jackie Yeager

Marvel Zhang

# More Fall Fun at NHS!



## Class Notes

This section of Newman News contains notes by Class. Please submit notes and information about reunions, anniversaries, births, career moves, retirements and any information you would like to share with our Newman Family! You may find a Class Notes form on our website. <http://www.newmancchs.org/alumni/classnotes.cfm>

### Remembering Newman Educators ....

**Charley P. Riney**, passed away on July 1, 2019.

**Father Francis McDonnell**, passed away on November 14, 2019.

### Three Generations Strong

Pictured are **Mike Shippert**, '64, with his daughter, **Katie Murray (Shippert)** '93, and his granddaughter **Alexis Murray** '19, at the Newman Central Catholic 2019 Graduation Ceremony.



### 1938

**Frank James McCue**, 99 of Sterling died Tuesday July 23, 2019 at Rock River Hospice and Home in Sterling.

### 1947

**Tony A Licocci**, of Rock Falls, passed away on July 24, 2019 at Rock River Hospice and Home in Sterling.

### 1953

**James A. "Jim" Mangan** of Freeport, IL and Indian Wells, CA, died Thursday, July 18, 2019.

### 1954

**Thomas Villa** passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, IL. He was 84 years old.

### 1958

**Veronica Tschosik**, age 78 of Rock Falls, died Tuesday, August 06, 2019 at Rock River Hospice and Home in Sterling.

### 1959

The Class of 1959 held it's **60 Year Reunion** on Saturday, June 22, 2019.

### 1963

**Christine J. Lease** passed away on June 16, 2019 in Florida.

### 1964

The Class of 1964 held their **55th Reunion** on September 13th & 14th, 2019.

### 1967

**Thomas J. Green**, "Tom," 69, died suddenly on June 13, 2019,

### 1969

The Class of 1969 held their **50 Year Reunion** Friday July 26th and Saturday July 27th, 2019. They were the largest graduating class with 144 members. Sixty-three classmates, many spouses and a few friends of the class gathered Friday night at Champs. Russ Hall gave the benediction, remembering the 24 classmates who have passed away including Jerry Celletti who was killed in Vietnam. John Dawson said the Blessing before meals and Mrs. Rita Heeren, former 2nd grade teacher at St. Mary's Sterling stopped by to say hello. Jim Olson emceed the Trivia Contest which included questions like, "who has played golf in all 50 states? What four guys received varsity Ns their freshman year? Who has manatees and dolphins playing in her front yard? Whose dad owned Blackhawk Lanes? Who has a thoroughbred racehorse? And Who has his own radio show? Saturday night Greg and Sue (Blackburn '70) Thome hosted a cook-out. Greg Wahl and Dave Bieser provided the entertainment with their guitars. John Dawson spoke about his Newman experiences as a student, parent and alum and challenged the class to raise \$10,000 for a class scholarship. That goal has been met! Mary Jo Dace Gilmore started a Facebook page: Class of 1969. Classmates can check that and the Newman website for updates about our scholarship and news about the birthday party planned for the summer of 2020!

# Class Notes

## 1969

**Larry Ybarra** was certified by the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) this year as a Personal Fitness Trainer, Corrective Exercise Specialist and Senior Fitness Specialist. Larry has recently joined the staff at Westwood Fitness Center to lead a new program he has developed called Fit for Life which provides exercise instruction for adults 50 and better!

## 1970

The class of 1970 has scheduled their **50 year reunion** for September 5th, Labor Day weekend, 2020. Contact Mary Papoccia at Papoccia8@hotmail.com with ideas.

## 1972

**Jim "Moose" Brackemeyer**, passed away on July 12, 2019 in Princeton, IL.

## 1976

**Kim Koehler Freitag** and her husband, Bob, renewed their marriage vows at the Wedding Church in Cana, Israel while on a Holy Land pilgrimage trip in June 2019. Bob and Kim celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary while in Israel.



## 1979

The Class of 1979 held their **40th Class Reunion** October 11-13, 2019.

**Diana (Long) Hellman** and her husband, Thomas, are very blessed to be having our son and his fiancé getting married on September 28, 2019 and our daughter and her fiancé getting married on November 16, 2019.

## 1985

Plans are developing for the **Class of '85 35th Reunion** in Fall or Summer 2020. Please contact Tim Nelson at development@newmancchs.org with ideas or dates.

## 1993

**Brian Droge** and his wife Diane spent the summer assisting their children run a Neighborhood Garage Library from their home in Fort Worth, Texas. Their story was picked up by an NBC affiliate which resulted in daughter, Penelope receiving the honor of Official Librarian by the Ft. Worth Library Association, as well as being featured on the Kelly Clarkson Show.

## 1999

**Rachel Hermes** was featured in the October 11, 2019 issue of The Observer, in an article highlighting her work with Catholic Relief Services in India, Afghanistan and Sudan. Rachel works at Rotary International in Evanston and attends St. Gertrude Parish in Chicago.

## 2000

**Megan Repass & Ryan Dawson** welcomed Brooks Charles Dawson on August 26, 2019.



## 2005

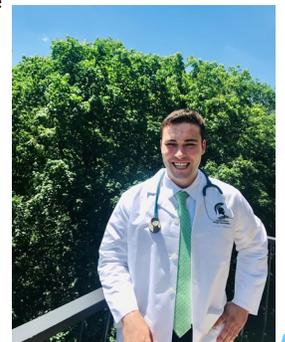
**Paul Magnafici** married **Sara (Hannan) Magnafici, '10**, on June 28, 2019 at St. Peter's Cathedral in Rockford, IL. The Magnafici's are expecting their first child in March 2020.

## 2010

**Sara (Hannan) Magnafici** married **Paul Magnafici, '05**, on June 28, 2019 at St. Peter's Cathedral in Rockford, IL. The happy couple are expecting their first child in March 2020.

## 2014

**Seth Brauman** earned his masters degree from Saint Ambrose University in May 2019. He has begun medical school at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine on June 7, 2019.





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*Please select method of payment:*

**Check #:** \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to *NCCHS*)

**One Time Charge:** \_\_\_\_\_ I authorize Newman to charge via credit card the full amount of my donation.

**Automatic Monthly gift Pledge:** \_\_\_\_\_ I authorize Newman to charge my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month from \_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_.

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