

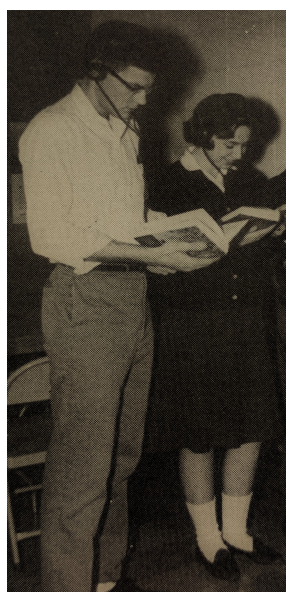


# Will Uniforms Return to Newman High?

From 1951 to 1962, Newman Catholic High mandated uniforms for some of their students. The girls wore short sleeve, white collared shirts (long sleeve for mass days) paired with dark green gabardine skirts and vests. The boys did not have uniforms but were not allowed to wear jeans. After 1962, uniforms were discarded but jeans were still not allowed. In 2004, a formal dress code was set in place and has been followed ever since. A current Newman student asked our principal, Mrs. McManus about how a dress code is set in place and how it is created, this is what she has to say:

*About every ten years, the request comes to the Newman Catholic School System to move to students wearing uniforms. The current dress code (minus a few tweaks as fashion changes) was developed by the administration in the early 2000's. I believe the intent was to give something to both sides (uniforms vs. non-uniforms). The current dress code has standards that would match required uniform policy such as; collared shirts, appropriate dress/skirt length, small logos, khakis, no leggings as primary wear, etc. The dress code does allow for some individuality multiple colors of khaki instead of khakis rather than navy only. Patterned, stripped, solid shirts rather than a white polo shirt only. Patterned, striped, or solid sweaters rather than a solid navy sweater only. Patterned, stripped, or solid skirts or dresses of an appropriate length rather than just a navy jumper or pleated navy skirt only. The current dress code keeps fashion in a neutral "middle ground" while still allowing appropriate self-expression. I am sure the dress code vs. uniforms will come up again.... which would **YOU** prefer?*

A survey was taken before this question was answered and the debate and discussion had already begun in the halls and in classrooms. At the time of the survey, the question had still not been brought To this



French Recitation at Newman Catholic High School, 1961

point, the idea had still not been brought to the ears of our principal. What exactly were students saying?

Junior Alexa Huff, writes about already popular and yet ever growing opinions of Newman High School students: Newman students were given a survey on whether or not they would prefer uniforms, regular dress code, or if they felt indifferent.

Some students leaned more to one side, and some down te middle. Although people may feel that one answer is the correct one, there are some pros and cons to either decision.

School uniforms help students who are less fortunate feel more "in the loop" with their peers. Kids in every school struggle with trying to fit in, and not being able to afford all the same things that other kids have. Along with that, it can save parents and students a lot of time. Not having to worry about what to wear, whether or not it's in dress code, and how much time they have to get ready for school. Uniforms also help private schools look a little more, well, uniform. Having students dressed in appropriate attire, and similar to their peers, helps represent the school. Uniforms have also been proven to increase student's productivity and focus. Kids are less focused on their own clothes, or the clothes of the kids around them, and more on what is being taught directly to them.

On the other hand, there is a certain freedom

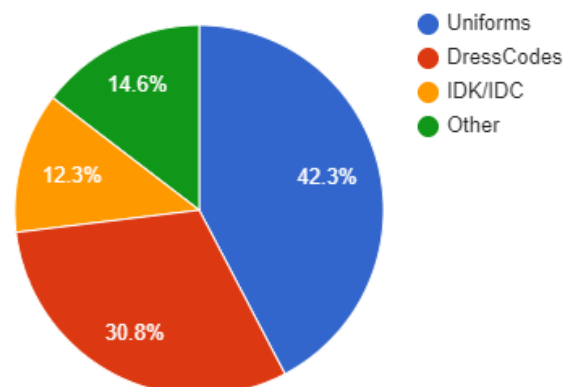
that does not come with a school uniform. Dressing how a student wants to, while still in dress code, gives students the freedom to express themselves.

The way people dress, style their hair, and accessories, are all ways that students can show their individuality. If you look around at the people around you, not everyone is dressed the same or has the same sense of style. Uniforms can take away a student's individuality and cause them to not only look the same as their peers, but to feel the same. Studies on uniforms have also shown a jump in student resentment for school itself, and the authority within it.

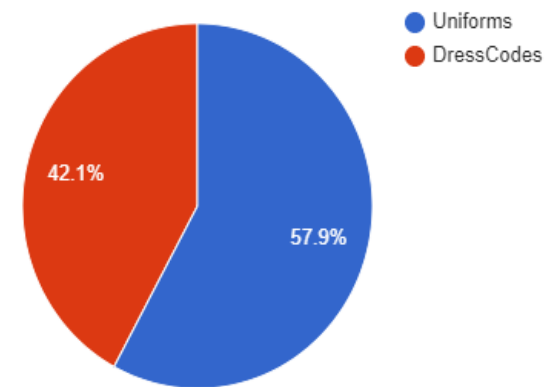
Although both sides have their own fair share of pros and cons that could sway a student's opinion to either side, it seems that the results of the survey show that more Newman students would prefer wearing uniforms to school, than following the current dress code.

The uniforms vs. dress code survey was handed out on March 2nd (see charts), and as of the final count of March 5th, 55 of next year's Newman High students prefer uniforms, 40 prefer dress code, 16 do not have a preference, and 19 would prefer no dress code or one that matches Wausau's public school system. While the students are only one factor of changing mandates for following school years, administration will be hard-pressed to ignore what may possibly become a big change in upcoming school years.

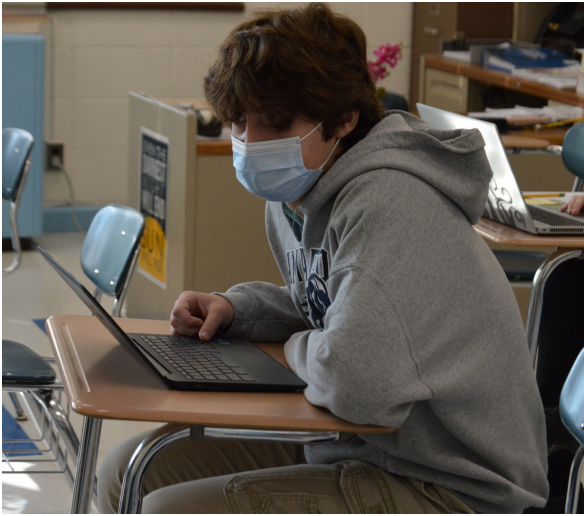
Uniforms vs. Dress Code



Uniforms vs. Dress Code







Junior Sam Zeimetz works on a presentation for his AP Language assignment.



Freshmen walk the Stations of the Cross.




Seniors Stevie Samuels, Charlie McCarty, and Angela Rougeot-Donath stop for a picture at the Senior Retreat.



Students write Lenten Cards to Alumni that have graduated in between 1955 to 1958.

*SCHOOL DAYS*



SHARE YOUR SCHOOL MOMENTS:

EMAIL:  
theredhat@newman.k12.wi.us



## Competitive and Contagious: the Origin of March Malaria Madness

By: Nick Brenner

As the high-flying, primetime Men's and Women's NCAA March Madness Tournaments kick off, a different, yet equally consequential, competition has named their final four. Through heartbreak and upsets, controversy and disappointment, and a little bit of luck, the 2021 March Malaria Madness Tournament is set up for an epic conclusion. With Coronavirus, Meningitis, Obesity, and Zika as the last diseases standing, it's anyone's game to win. With over thirty brackets filled out, countless students and teachers alike await eagerly to see who will be crowned champion. But how did this event gain such wide-spread school attention?

With looming lockdowns and uncertainty surrounding the novel SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, March 2020 appeared rather bleak. Top-grossing sports leagues such as the NBA were cancelling games, and the NCAA tournament seems unlikely. Unsure of how much longer school would remain in session, two Newman Catholic High School juniors sought to fill the void in many students' hearts for fast-paced action and fierce competition. Thus, the birth of March Malaria Madness! "With the whole world thinking about diseases, we wondered how pandemic would stack up against those of the past. It only seemed natural that we have them compete in a 1-on-1 high stakes tournament," said co-founder Nick Brenner. With counsel from the heads of the mathematics and biology departments at Newman Catholic, Nick and other co-founder, Elise Raschke, dove head first into selecting the contenders for the first annual tournament. Utilizing a large whiteboard space in Mr. Nicklaus's room, they unveiled the bracket for the first time to be met with overwhelming enthusiasm and support. Unfortunately, little did they know that the day of the big reveal would be their last inside the halls of Newman Catholic for over 6 months.

*Continue on Page 8*

# The Red Hat

Founded 1951  
Reinstated 2020

Published every month by *THE RED HAT* Staff of Newman High School in Wausau, WI.

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	Alexa Huff Class of '22
	Hailey Tlusty Class of '24
Sports Writers _____	Nick Brenner Class of '21
	Ben Noll Class of '21
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Religious Consultant _____	Fr. Joseph Richards
Contributing Faculty Writers _____	Mrs. Anne McManus Class of '77
	Mr. James Aldrich
Advisor _____	Mr. Anthony Noll

## Editor's Thoughts . . .

The halls of Newman Catholic High School welcome many online students back as the rules on virtual learning are becoming more structured. With the majority of students back in the building, there is less than a week until the halls of Newman Catholic will yet again be empty for Spring Break. I hope everyone enjoys their break before the stress of AP tests and finals begin.!

# History of *The Red Hat*


*The Red Hat* was founded by the first class of Newman Catholic High School in the fall of 1951. Starting off as the name of the yearbook, *The Red Hat* became the name for Newman's newspaper. This newspaper was written every month by *The Red Hat* staff with the help of Newman's Journalism Club members. *The Red Hat* was written for both the students and the faculty. It would highlight Newman sports, clubs, dances, and most importantly, the faith-centered education of Newman High. *The Red Hat* ran for 55 years on and off but unfortunately released it's last edition in 2006 due to a lack of interest. From 2010-2012, there was an attempt to restart *The Red Hat* in online "blog" form, but became out of date without any current posts.

By continuing this tradition, *The Red Hat* staff hopes to revive the spirit of Newman Catholic High School back into the student body

--By: Editor

# Fr. Joe's Faith Column

By: Hailey Tlusty, Fr. Joe



Every month we ask Newman students to submit their questions about the Catholic Faith. Fr. Joe will read through these questions and will answer some of the questions that he thinks are important. [We highly encourage people to send in any and all the questions](#) that they have regarding the our Faith. All questions will be treated anonymously, so please ask and do not be shy!

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**How often should we go to confession?**

Whenever we commit a mortal sin, or even if we just feel bogged down by venial sins, it's a good idea to get to confession. At the same time, I think it's important to establish some kind of rhythm or regularity to both confession and the Eucharist (Mass). This looks different for each person, but for myself, I like going on about a monthly basis. If I have big stuff to bring up it's a good chance for it, but even if I don't have anything terribly large to confess, it's still a good way to keep inviting Christ's mercy into our hearts. It's a bold claim, but I think regular confession is perhaps the most underutilized tool we have to help us follow Christ.

---

**What made you become a priest?**

When I first thought about becoming a priest, it was mostly another option I could do with my life. I was already familiar with the Church and with Church-y things, so it seemed a bit natural to consider it. Later on, when I got serious about the possibility, I was chiefly moved by two things: first, an excellent role-model priest that lived his priesthood well; and second, because I saw work worth doing that needed to be done.

---

**Is it good to be Lutheran in a Christian School?**

It's good to be Christian in a Christian school (and anywhere else for that matter). One trap we can fall into is a certain competitiveness between different denominations of Christianity (Catholicism, Lutheranism/Protestantism, Evangelicalism, etc.), while the reality is that the divisions we see among Christians are a sign of our own brokenness. Rather than wanting us to compete, God is always working to bring his people back together. So yes, it's good to be Lutheran in a Christian School just like it's good to be Catholic in a Christian school. The important thing is always listening to the Holy Spirit.

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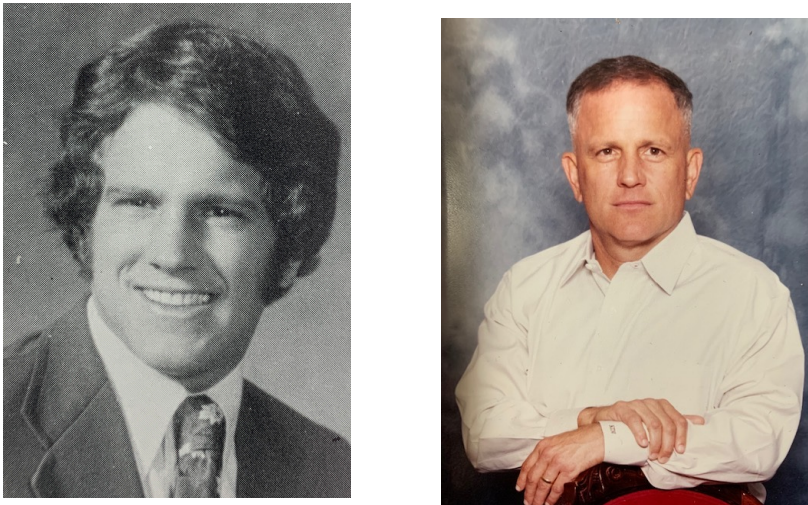
**Are the holidays that celebrate life events of Jesus on the exact day that they happened?**

For the most part, they are probably not, although they occurred around roughly the same time. Let's take Christmas for example. Christians started celebrating Christmas on December 25 during the reign on Emperor Constantine (the year 336). We can't say exactly what the reason was for December 25. A few theories are that are that March 25 (nine months before) was already celebrated as the feast of the Annunciation (Gabriel announcing Jesus to Mary). Another was that it was the date for the celebration of the feast of the sun, and Christians took that date over. A third theory was that it was the winter solstice, bringing light during the darkest day of the year. We did know that Jesus was born in the winter, so we attached our remembering and celebrating of Jesus' birthday to a winter day and set aside a meaningful occasion that would be consistent from year to year.



Honored Alumni

Mr. Kevin McCutcheon



Mr. Kevin McCutcheon graduated from Newman Catholic High School in 1976. During his time at Newman, Mr. McCutcheon became student council president, a A student, and was later accepted to play football as a "walk on" at the University of Georgia. After graduation, he married his high school sweetheart, Chris (Kuehlman) McCutcheon.

The early 70's marked the last months of the Vietnam conflict, and Mr. McCutcheon chose to join the marines and spend 32 years of his life serving our country. He says that many people, both at home and at school, felt that making the choice to join such a "disfunctional military" in the mid 1970's was a "stupid decision." Mr. McCutcheon's military service allowed both he and his wife to travel all over the world and create lasting experiences and memories.

Today, the McCutcheon's have two children and two grandchildren and their faith has never been stronger. He says that Newman Catholic provided a foundation for their faith and good standing with the Lord. After Mr. McCutcheon retired, he worked as a consultant for a defense consulting firm as the European Account Director for Defense in Stuttgart, Germany. He retired from that position in 2013 and moved to Hickory, North Carolina. Since then, he has been donating his time at the Marine Corp Aviation Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Marine Corp League, American Wine Society, and various church activities.

*Newman students and staff would like to thank Mr. Kevin McCutcheon and all of Newman's alumni who have served in the United States Military and want them to know just how grateful we are of them.*

*"May God Bless and Keep you, may God's face shine on you, may he be kind to you and give you peace."*

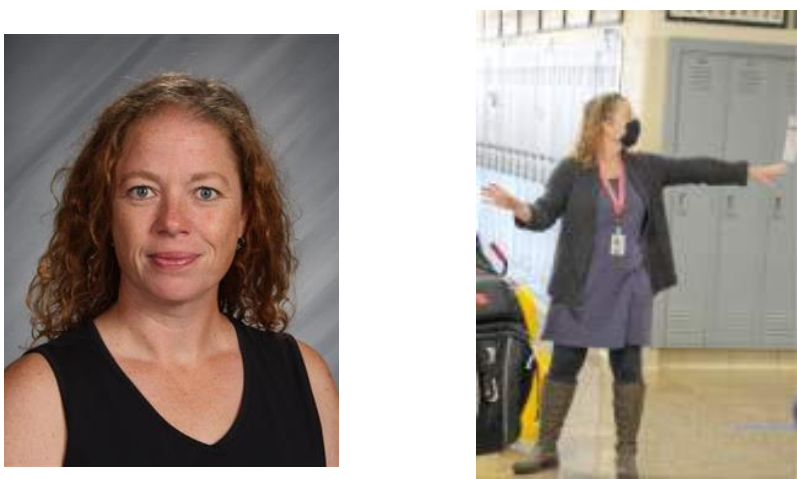
Alumni

Hey Alumni!

Especially during these confusing and difficult times, we pray for each and every one of you and hope that everything is going well. We would love to hear from you and catch up! If you would like to send us an update, please email:  
[theredhat@newman.k12.wi.us](mailto:theredhat@newman.k12.wi.us)

V.I.P. of N.H.S.

Mrs. Sonja Gasper



After graduating high school, Mrs. Gasper began a degree in nursing and ultimately switched both her major and the college she attended to work toward a degree in education. She met her husband at her new school, marrying him in 1995, later moving their family to Wausau from Nebraska.

Since their move, Mrs. Gasper became a fitness instructor and yoga teacher at the YMCA. She also started a micro farm business, and she volunteers at the Monk Gardens, teaching people about the importance of eating locally and supporting small farmers. In 2012, Mrs. Gasper joined the Newman faculty. She started as a substitute teacher and is now a full time teacher in the high school science department.

Mrs. Gasper teaches Environmental science, Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, and AP Biology. Mrs. Gasper does not like to use lecture as her primary teaching method, and has built a curriculum around challenge. She says, "the most exciting classes are those when students come away a bit frustrated, but wanting to look for the next answer. That's what keeps me coming back day after day." Her class motto, "fail forward" has become one of the most encouraging and hated quotes among her students.

When asked about how she sees the Catholic Faith in Newman, she talked a lot about the little things. She notices how kind the students are. She appreciates seeing student hold doors open, and she loves how smiles are always implied even if we can't see them. She recognizes that everyone has their moments, but enjoys watching everyone grow.

Trivia

Last month's question:

Q: Which two Saint's relics are placed in the altar during Wednesday masses?

A: Saints Carus and Jucundus

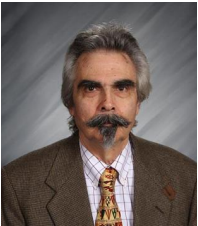
This month's question:

When is Newman Catholic High School's Founder's Day?  
(Note: This year's Founder's Day celebrations have been postponed until next year.)



# March: the Month of Saint Joseph

By: Mr. Aldrich



Here in the month of St. Joseph as proclaimed by Pope Francis, I would like to consider two of the titles by which we invoke the Patron of the Universal Church. *Terror of Demons* is particularly appropriate for the current state of our nation and the world. Can any reasonable person dismiss the evidence for the influence of the demonic in these days? The widespread doubt concerning the existence of the fallen angels and their work is their most effective weapon in undermining the Church and diverting individuals from the path to salvation. Is it reasonable to attribute to human nature alone, even maimed as it is by the effects of Original Sin, the depravity and corruption rampant in the world today? While Scripture does not provide direct evidence of Joseph's power over the demonic, evangelists, exorcists, and even satanists testify to his effectiveness against demonic oppression.

The Litany of St. Joseph also recognizes the foster father of Jesus as *Protector of the Holy Church*. The victory has been won by Jesus but the battle for souls continues. The Body of Christ is not immune from temporal and spiritual attack. What more likely target for Satan and his minions than the very structure ordained by Christ to bring all men and women to salvation? Several popes have attested to St. Joseph's protective power by composing prayers of intercession for the Church. Let us, therefore, pray this month with unusual faith and fervor for the assistance of St. Joseph in our lives and in the life of the Church.

## Did You Know?

by Hanna Seidl

**Did you know that grapes light of fire in the microwave?**

When grapes are microwaved, the heat causes loose electrons and ions to cluster forming a plasma, and they start on fire!



**Did you know that Lady Liberty wears a size 879 shoe?**

The feet of Lady Liberty are 7.65 meters and 25 feet long,so she would wear a shoe size of 879!



**Did you know that lobsters have clear blood?**



Just like their shell, a lobster's blood is clear Until it touches oxygen. Once it hits oxygen, it turns blue!

## We Wonder

This month, we asked Newman students to tell us their favorite Bible verse, and this is how they responded:

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8)

~Destiny Lo '23

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present not the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

~Hannah Brklacich '22

"He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you." (Matthew 17:20)

~Ava Sobolewski '23 &

~Ben Moua '24

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

~Hailey Thlusty '24 &

~Mrs. Wulf (Counselor)

"Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." (Proverbs 16:24)

~Faith Fehrman '22

"and God said, "let there be light," and there was light." (Genesis 1:3)

~Rebecca Larrain '22

love you, O Lord, my strength." The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies." (Psalm 18: 1-3)

~Nick Brenner '21

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)

~Taylor Lemanski '24

"The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent." (Exodus 14:14)

~Ada Stenstrom '23

"I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is my right hand, I will not be shaken." (Psalm 16:8)

~Grace Martin '22



Teacher Memes of the Month



Did you know that the longest place name in the world is 85 letters long?

"TaumatawhakatangiHangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu" is on the north island of New Zealand!



# School at Home

By: Hailey Tlusty

*Because of COVID-19, Newman students were given the option to learn at home remotely or in-person. The concept of joining classes online while still receiving an education from in-person learning is a new concept for Newman students and faculty alike. Hailey Tlusty (remote student) writes about what it is like to learn from home:*



School has definitely been weird for all of us this year. Whether virtual or in-person, we all have dealt with new rules, guidelines, and activities that we never imagined would happen. I know as a virtual student, I never thought I would have to learn virtually in my entire life. Over the months, being virtual has become routine for both students and teachers. Teachers have figured out the timing needed to start the Google Meets, what to do if their systems go haywire, and how to teach to accommodate both the virtual and in-person students. As students, we know the time needed to join the classes, how to deal with the malfunctioning technology that may not allow us to get to class on time, and how to schedule our days to accommodate this new lifestyle.

Over my time being virtual, I have figured out a few perks about the situation. One thing is that you don't have to wake up early and be in a rush to get to school on time. You can instead wake up, get dressed, and join first period class in 5 minutes. Another perk is that you can do whatever you want between classes, during study halls, and during lunch just as long as you get to your next class on time. For me, these free time activities are talking to my parents, working on homework, and preparing for the next class. Also when preparing for the classes, you don't have to worry about whether or not you forgot something at home or in your locker. Overall, everything is in the confines of your house. These make going to virtual school pretty cool, but it isn't always that great.

*Continue on Page 8*

## On This Day

By: Hanna Seidl

### March 22

1765- The first direct British tax on American colonists, The Stamp Act, was passed.

1790- Thomas Jefferson is made the first U.S. Secretary of State.

1904- The first color photograph is published in the "London Daily Illustrated Mirror" newspaper.

1935- Persia is renamed Iran.

1952- "All Shook Up" single is released by Elvis Presely.

1963- The Beatles' first album, "Please Please Me," is released in England.

1972- The U.S. Senate passes the Equal Rights Amendment, guaranteeing equal rights for women. The amendment fails to achieve the state's ratification.

1976- Reese Witherspoon is born.

1989- JJ Watt, American football defensive end for the University of Wisconsin, is born.

2017- Tomb of Jesus reopens after restoration of Jerusalem.

## Announcements

### Spring Break

Spring Break will start March 27. Classes will resume April 6th. (the Tuesday after Easter Monday)  
Enjoy your break!

### Penny War Results

After almost four weeks, all of the coins have been counted. The winners of the spring 2021 Penny War are the Freshman and Juniors! Thank you to everyone who donated. We raised \$\_\_\_ for the Neighbor's Place!

### Liturgical Ministry

Father Joe and our Campus Minister, Mrs. Damask, are looking for any and all volunteers to help with our weekly Wednesday masses. There is no experience needed, just a willing servant heart.

### Mass Music

We are looking for High School Students who would be willing to play music for the Introduction, Eucharist and Recess during the High School Mass. If you are interested, please talk to Fr. Joe or Mrs. Damask.

## ...and in DOUBLE FACEPALM News:



### Prom

While both the state and the school's numbers for COVID-19 and steadily decreasing, it has been decided, for the insured safety for all students and staff that the 2021 Prom is CANCELLED.

### Cabin Fever

In addition to Prom, this year's Cabin Fever is thus far CANCELLED.

### Adoration

The Blessed Sacrament will be revealed in the Chapel each Thursday during Middle and High School lunches for the remainder of Lent.

### Confession

Confession will be available each week during all lunch periods. Check the white boards outside Fr. Joe's office to know when he will be listening to Confessions.

### Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated blood for the National Honor Society sponsored blood drive. The recipients of these donations will be forever grateful!

### Sophomore Retreat

Attention Sophomores! Your retreat is set for March 23rd. Remember your Bible and pencil. If you need a lunch, please return your form.

### Junior Retreat

Attention Juniors! Your retreat is scheduled for April 22nd. Do not forget your Bible and pencil.

### NHS Ceremony

Last year's and this year's inductees will join together for their induction ceremony on April 28. The ceremony will be held in the Newman gymnasium at 6:30 PM. Each inductee will be allowed 2 guests.

### Course Selections

All students! Make sure to check your emails for upcoming meetings about course selection.

### Scholarships

Scholarships are due by March 31 to be selected!





TIME CAPSULE: 1967-1982

Sports Shorts:

Garret Hagenbucher has been named to the CWCC All Conference Wrestling Team in the 145 pound weight division. Garret, a senior, was also Newman's only qualifier for the WISAA State Wrestling Meet, where he finished in 6th place.

The girls' basketball team closed out their season on a disappointing note as they lost to arch-rival Stevens Point Pacelli. Despite the loss the girls finished with an 11-9 record.

Jeff Mayer was elected to this year's CWCC All-Conference team. Mayer was also awarded Player of the Year honors. Seniors Matt Chilson and Tom Krieg received Honorable Mention for their play in CWCC. Coach Dan Sullivan also was applauded by the conference as he was named Co-Coach of the Year.

Senior Scott Sargent has been chosen as assistant coach for the track team this season. Scott's been involved as the track manager and is looking forward to the new position as assistant.

Jeff Mayer ended up as the leading scorer in the CWCC as well as the field goal percentage leader (60%). Tom Krieg set a new conference record for freethrow percentage (87%) as well as finishing second to Mayer in field goal percentage (55%) for this year.

Check out Newman's Youtube channel (The Red Hat Newspaper) for "The Cardinals in Concert" performances the yearly concerts and from when the Cardinal's Marching Band went to the Olympics!!!

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On The Downbeat

"Freak Out" Latest Pop Music Innovation

By Tom Rolnicki '67

Freak music and poetry of the lyrics are two extremes in pop music today. Both have wide followings among young people in the U. S.

"FREAK-OUT MUSIC" is the latest innovation in pop music on the West Coast. Freaking out is connected with the effects produced by the drug LSD. Pertaining to the music itself, it means it is a loosening of your inhibitions-music that sounds as if you don't care what anyone says about you or does to you.

Groups on the scene specializing in freak music are The Mothers of Invention, Dr. West's Medicine Show and Junk Band, Jefferson Airplane and others. These groups are capitalizing on the publicity for LSD by incorporating in their music the terms freak out, psychotic, trip, and happening.

WEST FOR THE use of freak music on the pop scene in the near future. Fans of beat music should be interested in buying albums in these groups.

One of the groups on the Strip scene, playing beat music with occasional freak music is Love. Their latest L.P. is entitled "Da Capo" and includes their hits, "Seven and Seven is" and "She Comes In Colors."

A DIRECT OPPOSITE of the freak music is the music of Simon and Garfunkel. Their music, poetry of the lyrics, attracts American youth who want their music to deal with the meaning of life itself, not with a mass of dream world images.

Simon and Garfunkel's latest album, "Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme," is an excellent example of realistic music.

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Buy Your Records At

WRIGHT'S MUSIC STORE

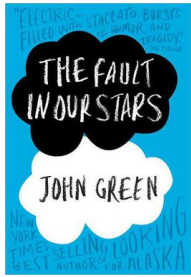
531-3rd Street 845-6069



Watches can make the perfect Christmas gift

842-1450 Jim Kryshak Jew





## **BOOK REVIEW:** **THE FAULT IN OUR STARS**

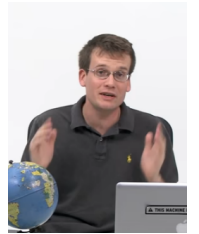
**Book Review:** *The Fault in Our Stars*

**Author:** John Green

**By:** Grace Martin

### **Fun Fact:**

This guy is John Green, the man that everyone "loves" from English Class and the Crash Course Literature videos. This same John Green is the author of *The Fault in Our Stars*.



*The Fault in our Stars* is one of the many books that Mrs. Solum has included in her "Book Bingo" activity. I have read this particular story way too many times, re-reading it since middle school. It contains 25 chapters, each one not being very long in length. For the average person, it would most likely take around four hours to read. In 2014, a movie was made for this book, which I also enjoyed. I would say that this movie was really well done. I might even say that it is almost as good as the book.

This story is a romance novel, telling the story of Hazel Grace Lancaster. Hazel is a teenage girl who suffers more than most. Prior to the first chapter, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Due to this, she is also struggling with her mental health, causing her mother to send her to therapy with other teens with cancer. There she meets Augustus Waters, also nicknamed Gus, who she eventually falls in love with. However, Augustus has osteosarcoma (bone cancer), and he also lost a leg due to the disease and was believed to be cured. As the book continues, they experience a short time of bliss with one another. That happiness is cut short when they are faced with a major impact on both of their lives.

Unfortunately, this story is a tragedy and has a sad ending. The entire story is an emotional rollercoaster for the audience which, I think, is a great way to keep someone captivated. I have also noticed that people are drawn to emotional stories, and without some conflict, the story is not interesting. I do recommend this book, especially for those who enjoy teen romance. Readers should just be prepared for an emotional conclusion.

## **Competitive and Contagious: the Origin of March Malaria Madness Cont:** **By: Nick Brenner**

As March 2021 rolled around, Nick and Elise faced difficult questions: *Should March Malaria Madness go on? Would it generate the same excitement as year one after the competition was cut short by lockdowns?* Riddled with worry and panged by the prospect of massive failure, they decided to pull out the original bracket as see what they could do. After adjusting the seeding, adding new diseases to the field, and renaming the regions, Elise and Nick knew that this competition must go on. With Coronavirus, Obesity, HIV/AIDS, and Bubonic Plague headlining the four major regions, the bracket was once again released, this time to truly find a champion. Campaigning particularly hard in Mr. Nicklaus's math classes and Mrs. Gasper's biology classes, Nick and Elise worked to maximize the number of entries. "We wanted it to be a school-wide event," explained Nick. As it turned out, his wish would come true. Brackets from all grades were submitted, the students fervently checked Mr. Nicklaus's room to see the updated bracket. As the number of diseases remaining began to dwindle week-by-week, upsets and big victories made March Malaria Madness the talk of the school. Now, entering the final four, less than ten students remain in reach for first-place prize.

Reflecting on what March Malaria Madness has meant to her, Elise states, "It [March Malaria Madness] started as a dream, a way to cope with the uncertainties surrounding Coronavirus and to celebrate our last day in school for the 2020 school year. Seeing such a large student body participation and excitement about our tournament this year warms my heart. When we started March Malaria Madness, it wasn't about the glory, fame, or influence; it was about bringing our community together. COVID-19 may stop our world, but it can't stop our ability to find joy in it through fierce fictional cage battles between infectious diseases." As the tournament draws to a close and now finishing out their senior years, Nick and Elise hopes this tradition will continue long after they are gone. "Yeah, it'd be cool to come back and see the bracket up on the board in Mike's room in a couple years. It'd mean we left a bit of our legacy behind at Newman Catholic," said Nick. Though we don't know where it will go from here, March Malaria Madness has certainly had an impact on our school this year. Never doubt the ability of a competitive tournament to bring people together.

## **School at Home Cont:**

**By: Hailey Tlusty**

One downfall is time management. You think that you have a lot of time so it is really easy to want to watch TV all day. You have to remember to stay focused at all times during the school day. Another downfall are technical difficulties. These can happen without warning so you have to allow extra time in case your computer freezes or you lose internet service. Because teachers are virtual, you don't have the ability to ask them questions in person so you have to learn to speak up and ask questions before logging off. The biggest downfall or being virtual, for me, is that I am not able to socialize with my friends. It is the simple things that I miss. I miss being able to talk and laugh, walk down the hallways, and go to lunch with my friends. I sometimes feel left out, but I try to remember that it will not be this way forever.

Some things that have helped me cope with this situation are when my friends FaceTime me during lunch and after school, hanging out with them outside, and when they simply say "hi" or wave to me in class. I hope everything will be different next year for everyone, and will be back to some kind of normal as we used to know.