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CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL celebrates 10 years of serving as a co-ed high school!

Santa Rosa, CA – It has been 10 years since Cardinal Newman opened its doors to young women after the closure of the neighboring all-girls' Ursuline High School in 2011. Prior to this, Cardinal Newman High School was an all-boys' school, first opening its doors in August 1964. It is now the largest private, Catholic high school in Sonoma County.

When the surprising announcement was made that Ursuline High School would close its doors, Cardinal Newman administrators quickly made the decision to transition to a co-ed high school, giving the young women in the community an option for a Catholic high school education. In order to maintain the mission of educating students in the wholeness of mind, body and spirit; and since Cardinal Newman didn't have use of Ursuline's campus, the decision to open its doors to young women led to many immediate changes that needed to be made to the Cardinal Newman campus. Campus changes included building a cafeteria and eating area, adding classrooms, restrooms, a women's locker room, a softball field, additional parking, and hiring additional faculty and staff. All of the sudden Cardinal Newman had twice the number of students on campus, twice the number of sports teams, and the need for additional athletic uniforms and equipment.

With this change to a co-educational environment, Cardinal Newman's halls became more lively and energetic. Aside from the campus changes that needed to be made and the added, unbudgeted costs associated with these changes, the transition was seamless in the eyes of the students and their families.

Here sits Cardinal Newman High School ten years later under a whole new landscape. As a school, Cardinal Newman has endured more than one can fathom. The last 10 years have not only brought a co-educational existence and campus improvements that went along with it, it also brought a new, state-of-the-art science center. In 2017, the Tubbs Fire roared through campus destroying most of campus leaving the science center, the gym, and the diocesan building which is now used as CN's administration wing. The pandemic has continued to challenge CNHS with more nuances to navigate through. As students are currently distance learning from their homes, re-building efforts are taking place on campus as building and preparations are made to open the NEW 2-story Classroom Building in August 2021, just in time for the Fall semester, while a New Student Life Center and Chapel are expected to open in February 2023.

Through all of these changes, Cardinal Newman High School remains strong, continuing to put the needs of the students first and foremost. There is no doubt that the Cardinal Newman community has learned the true meaning of perseverance, tenacity, determination, and patience. Cardinal Newman High School gives thanks to the community for their continued support over the last 10 years and braces itself for the exciting future ahead . . . full of opportunity and growth. As Cardinal Newman High School looks to the future, it celebrates the last ten years, never losing sight of all that the community has learned and experienced together, making it a community of strength, connectedness, and spirit like no other.