

# Worth Every Sacrifice

By Devin Bierly, junior

My Catholic education has given me the opportunity to learn about God and how I can serve God through service to my family, community and world. My faith has been strengthened by daily theology classes, weekly masses and the opportunity to speak freely about my faith in the classroom.

Academically, St. John Neumann is second to none. The teachers are outstanding in their field of study and their door is always open. All students are known by name by the faculty, administration and staff.

Neumann offers a wide array of honors and Advanced Placement courses, challenging students at every level. There are many extracurricular and sporting activities at our Academy. Students participate in Academic Decathlon, Odyssey of the Mind, the LEO Club, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Drama Club, Choir and Interscholastic Reading Competition, just to name a few.

We offer all the major sports and are grateful to have the opportunity to co-op with Loyalsock Township School District in football and wrestling, and with South Williamsport School District in track and field.

We also have an affiliation with the YMCA for swimming. Our Academy is fortunate to share a partnership with The Fitness Factory, which is just across the street from our high school campus, which allows all of our athletes to participate in strength and conditioning programs, and also to develop an individual work out program with our coaches in any off-season sports program. All students are welcome to participate, and there is no cost involved.

Personally, I have not been given the option to attend any other school. If I had been given the opportunity, I would have declined. I feel right at home at St. John Neumann. I feel that my education and training at St. John Neumann has prepared me for any path that I might choose in life.

Most importantly, I have learned honesty, morality and spirituality. I have learned how to make good decisions and to face the consequences if I should choose incorrectly. I have learned how to help others and to serve God through serving others. I appreciate that we are encouraged to worship God freely at any given time of the day and in everything we do.

My mother often tells the story of how our Academy responded after the declaration of war on Iraq in March 2003. She was driving down Washington Boulevard and was stopped at the light at Penn Street. She was deeply moved as she watched the Neumann students walking solemnly from the high school campus over to St. Boniface Church to pray for those ensuring our freedom.

It was at that moment she knew that the Catholic education she provided for her children was well worth every sacrifice she made.

I thank my family and my church community for providing me with a good, quality Catholic education, and I am confident that I will continue the proud tradition of service reinforced by my studies at St. John Neumann Regional Academy.

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A closer look inside our schools from the students' perspective

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This page was created by students at St. John Neumann Regional Academy

# Catholic Schools Celebration 2010

## Week recognizes importance of a Catholic education

By Dorothy VanDine, junior

It's that time of year again. Catholic Schools Celebration 2010 is here.

The week of Jan. 31 to Feb. 6 is designated throughout the United States to recognize the importance of Catholic schools in our communities.

This year's theme, "Dividends for Life: Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals" focuses on the important attributes of a Catholic education.

This celebration challenges our faith community to help support our local Catholic schools, and challenges our students to increase the amount of community service we put forth in order to improve the lives of others as well as ourselves.

In the present day, more and more teenagers and young adults are putting their faith on the "back burner" because it takes time away from their social life or other interests.

A Catholic education ensures that, with all the distractions that kids face today, Catholic school students will be challenged to grow in their faith.

A Catholic education also guarantees an excellent service-oriented and academically challenging education, one that will enlighten the minds and souls of children for generations to come.

At St. John Neumann, I am enjoying a high level of academic course work, as the focus is on preparing students for college-level classes.

As I progress through my junior year and into my senior year, I have the opportunity to take an array of Advanced Placement and Honors classes, which constantly challenge and intrigue me.

The daily study of theology, weekly masses and opportunities for reconciliation have allowed me to explore and cultivate my faith — a privilege I could only enjoy at a Catholic school.

The time that I have invested in my school-related activities, music lessons and service projects have made me a well-rounded person, and given me all of the tools necessary to be prepared for the challenges and responsibilities of adulthood.

My contribution to the community has made me more mature and responsible.



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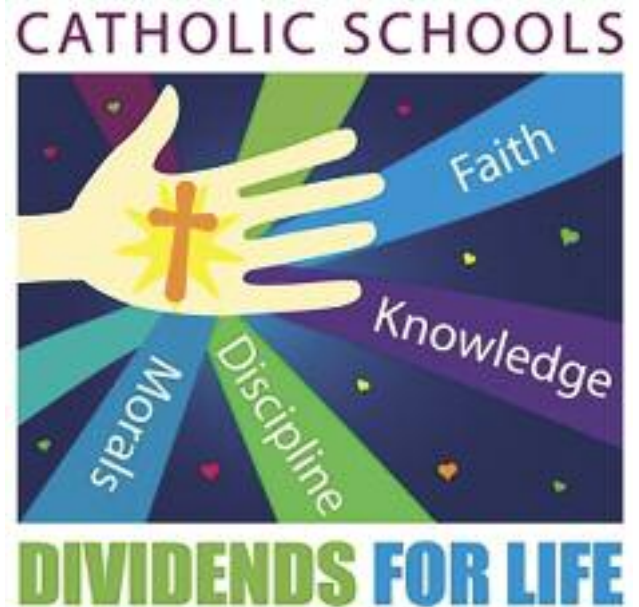


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St. John Neumann LEO Club members, from left, Adam Bahr, Conor Norris, Neil Forquer, Ana Georges and Madison Fink stand near the billboard promoting the LEOs' Cans for a Cause fundraiser.



I am an active member of the St. John Neumann LEO Club.

The LEO Club is a student organization that provides Neumann students with the building blocks to obtain the skills they need to insure their success in leadership roles and responsibilities in our community.

This organization does a commendable job of reaching out to the community.

In December, the Neumann LEO Club embarked on the second annual Cans for a Cause fundraiser.

With the help of the Neumann family and the entire Lycoming County com-

munity, we filled a very large dumpster with recyclable aluminum cans and will donate all of the proceeds to a needy local cause.

I am proud to be a member of an organization that is constantly seeking to help the less fortunate.

All St. John Neumann students, staff and families work constantly to effect change and make our school and community better.

I am proud to be part of the Neumann family, and am so grateful to have the privilege of a Catholic education. It truly is a gift; one that has life-changing and lifelong positive effects.

## Reflecting on My Catholic Education

By Chelsea Martin, senior

While sorting through my memories, I would have to say that my years at St. John Neumann have been the best of my life.

The Catholic school environment is a comfortable one that embraces each student who enters the building. I have been part of St. John Neumann Regional Academy since preschool.

This year, I am a senior and will be graduating with the Class of 2010.

The characteristic I love the most at St. John Neumann is the close-knit family feeling.

You know students from all grades, help is always available from any student who asks for it, and there is a great sense of security.

In the classroom, the dedicated teachers are there for us at all levels. They create lesson plans that involve the entire class and can be fun, while at the same time, are very in-depth and thought-provoking.

The teachers are all very approachable and students are comfortable approaching them with any problems they may have.

Our Academy promotes



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Student Council members pose with some of the items collected for Jared's Boxes. Shown in the photo are, from left, Hannah Facey, Alexandra Rall, Neil Forquer, Katie Lisi, Gregory Kist, Chelsea Martin and Amy Southard.

the rise of new leaders in today's society and in our church, with positions in student and executive councils, as well as many

service organizations.

This year, I am proud to be the executive student council president. I have already gained sig-

nificant leadership experience, which is valuable to me now and will certainly serve me well in the future.

In the fall, our student council engaged in a service project known as "Jared's Boxes".

With the help of the students at our high school campus, we collected small gifts, cards, books, toys and crafts for chronically ill hospitalized children.

SJNRA has a very strong sense of acceptance and inclusion that goes perfectly with the idea that "no child is left behind".

With my graduation only a few months away, I feel so grateful for my Catholic school education.

I was recently accepted into the nursing school at Duquesne University, a Catholic university in Pittsburgh. At Duquesne, I will work towards becoming a specialized nurse midwife.

I also plan to carry on my commitment to service and mission by volunteering locally in the Pittsburgh area. My Catholic education has given me the tools necessary to continue to give of my talent and my time to those less fortunate.

When I take the road as an adult in June to pursue my college education, I know I will not be alone. I know that the Neumann family will walk down the road beside me every day for the rest of my life.