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April 11, 2016

Education

Coming from a public education system, I have had many different experiences when it comes to education. I experienced public schooling from kindergarten to eighth grade, and have attended Newman all 4 years of high school. Although many people do not think public education is productive and effective, I believe that I was given a foundation that was strong enough for me to build upon in high school, taking honors, accelerated, and AP classes at Newman.

Throughout my childhood, I was always placed with some of the best teachers my school had to offer, mostly because my parents were able to request teachers. This was the case up until middle school, when teacher requests were no longer considered, which contributed to my attending Newman for high school. When I was younger and was in the teacher's classes that my parents and I desired, I was able to continue moving forward, and was often with students that had similar drive and determination that I did. In elementary school, there was a program in place called "Reading Counts" which I absolutely adored. After reading a book, there was an online quiz, and how well you did on the quiz corresponded with how many points you received. Each point went on a large board, and it was so rewarding to see my points climbing. I was an avid reader, and I thrived in this program, winning an award for the most amount of points.

Similar to the Reading Counts program, a few years later in sixth grade, a math program was put in place with the same idea. We all took a benchmark test, placing us at a math level, and from there we each, individually, learned our own math each week and took online tests

when we were ready. We of course could ask our teacher, Mr. Daniels, to help with anything, but it was a great way for each student to learn at their own pace.

Later in middle school, I was able to test out and skip pre-algebra, which was one of the best decisions I have ever made. This is what eventually let me take Algebra II Honors my freshman year of high school, and get me “ahead” in the math department. In the short run, while in middle school, in my math class I was surrounded by students who also tested out of the pre-algebra class, so I was with a high-caliber of students and with peers that really cared about their education, even in middle school.

Although I had a good enough experience at public schools in Windsor, I think many of my peers do not necessarily feel the same way. I have always been very driven and self motivated, which is why I believe I succeeded the way I did in a public school. If I wasn't these things, it is easy to get lost in the crowd, something I think many of my peers experienced, who probably would have been better off in a smaller setting. Although I had a mostly positive experience in elementary and middle school, deciding to come to Newman for high school has been an amazing decision.

There are many reasons why I decided to attend Cardinal Newman for high school, and the first is that my older sister went to Ursuline and furthered her education at USF and is now an extremely successful NICU nurse. I cried when I first heard Ursuline was closing it's doors because I didn't know what they meant for my future plans. When I became ill in eighth grade, both myself and my parents knew that I needed to be in a smaller community for high school, where I could receive the support I needed as I battled Lyme Disease. I also wanted to attend Newman because I have been researching colleges since 6th grade, and have always dreamed of going to a well-known college, and found that Newman would properly prepare me for my aspirations in this area. Now, as a senior I feel so comfortable and confident in attending college next year, mostly likely at UCLA, majoring in biology and going through the pre-med program. I

feel prepared not only for my studies but also the social and leadership aspects that I will use in college because of the education I have received.