

In December of 2020, I sat in my room waiting to join a Zoom meeting with Newman staff to interview for the St. Newman Full Tuition Scholarship. I anxiously awaited the results and when I finally received a call that I was awarded the scholarship, I knew Newman was where I was meant to be. This scholarship allowed me to receive a wonderful education with insightful and helpful professors. As a Newman student, I strive to respect everyone, honor mine and Newman's integrity, and embrace all of humanity.

Oftentimes, my friends and I with service scholarships come together to volunteer. Last semester, I joined some Newman students in visiting a nursing home and talking to the residents. After working in a nursing home all summer, I understood the importance of treating each resident as human beings with feelings although it may seem hard. One of the residents was very kind and talkative but did not want to do the craft we provided for the residents. The CNA working commented how she was a handful and hard to control but his disrespecting for her caused me to feel uncomfortable. I quickly responded that it was no trouble and tried to highlight the parts of her that were amazing, like her caring nature and ability to start a conversation with all of us. I understand how difficult it can be to work with residents with memory issues but I wanted to remind him that all the residents have souls and personalities that make them wonderful.

While I always strive to be a kind, helpful person all the time, when wearing Newman attire, I focus on being a good advocate for my school. It is always encouraging to hear people ask if I attend Newman and their relationship to the school. Whether their brother attended, their doctor got their undergraduate degree, or they heard of our sports teams, I know that I am now a face of Newman for them. To honor Newman's integrity, I also work hard to maintain good grades in all my classes and keep campus a welcoming environment for all.

Coming from a small town in Kansas, I grew up around people who looked and thought like me. Arriving at Newman, I knew I would grow as a person in my beliefs. Although I am a caucasian girl, organizations like MCLO, and ASA were so inviting and truly helped me educate myself on different cultures and ethnicities. Learning more about different groups and cultures around the world puts me one step closer to embracing all of humanity. Ignorance is formed through misinformation and lack of knowledge, so I hope to combat that during my time at Newman.

This code has already impacted my life in my short time at Newman. By advocating for all people, I will be able to create a safer environment for those around me. Maintaining personal integrity for myself and my school will help me support myself and my future job opportunities. Understanding all people in different lives, places, and cultures will open my world to many other perspectives and possibly more opportunities.