



“Reach out towards truth and grasp it”

Feasibility Report

December 8, 2015

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Cardinal Newman Academy
— Richmond, Virginia —

INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 2013, a group of Catholic parents began discussing the possibility of founding an independent coeducational high school to serve the Catholic community in the Richmond region. Seeing an unmet need in secondary education in Richmond, i.e., an affordable, coeducational choice, and motivated to serve Christ and the Church through education, they decided to explore the possibility of opening such a school. This report summarizes the findings of a study conducted to determine the feasibility of opening a new school.

I. METHOD

After deciding to explore the feasibility of a new school, Cardinal Newman Academy's Board of Directors drafted a Mission Statement outlining the goals and objectives for the proposed school. (See **Appendix A.**) The Board chose Cardinal John Henry Newman as the school's patron for his vision of education, his role as pastor, and his dedication and witness to the intellectual and spiritual life. Like Cardinal Newman, the Board believes that the purpose of education is the cultivation of wonder and the pursuit of truth: "There is a knowledge worth possessing for what it is, and not merely for what it does" (*The Idea of a University*). With this goal in mind, Cardinal Newman Academy will guide its students "to reach out towards truth, and to grasp it" (*Ibid.*). Based on the principles set forth in the Mission Statement, the Board drafted a Vision Statement to outline the purpose and other relevant aspects of the school. (See **Appendix B.**)

Throughout the fall and winter of 2013-14, the Board of Directors began meeting with stakeholders in the Richmond Catholic education community, including the Office of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Richmond. The Board also met with leaders at Benedictine College Preparatory, Saint Gertrude High School and most of the six Catholic elementary schools in the Richmond area. The purpose of these meetings was to seek input from Catholic educators and leaders about a new high school serving the Catholic community. Throughout this period, the Board also researched and communicated with other parent-founded independent schools to learn about the methodology and timeline those schools followed, researched and reviewed the feasibility studies that other educational institutions had conducted, and researched and sampled various online hosting services for the study. Following extensive research, the Board drafted a survey and posted it on SurveyGizmo.com. After testing the study on a sample group for content, style, and clarity, the survey was finalized for public distribution.

In April 2014, following additional meetings with Catholic educators and the Office of Catholic Education where the purpose of the survey was discussed, the Board of Directors began distributing the survey to the six Catholic elementary schools in the Richmond region: St. Benedict Catholic School, St. Mary's Catholic School, St. Bridget School, St. Edward-Epiphany Catholic School, All Saints Catholic School, and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. The administrators of these schools sent a link to the survey to the parents, accompanied by the Vision Statement which, while necessarily brief, communicated the core educational philosophy and mission of the school. In addition, informational meetings were held at several locations. By the end of 2014, the survey had been distributed to the parents at all six Catholic elementary schools.

II. SURVEY

Between April 2014 and January 2015, 663 surveys were completed. The survey consisted of 33 questions, in both closed-set and open-set formats, and asked for information related to geography, demographics, financial data, religious affiliation, number of children, and likelihood of enrolling. In addition, the survey asked for the respondent's input regarding features of the school itself, such as the curriculum, extra-curricular activities, Catholic identity and faith formation, and tuition.

In this report, the total responses for each question are indicated in the reported results. Percentages reported as a whole number have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

***“Between April 2014 and January 2015,
663 surveys were completed.”***

III. ANALYSIS

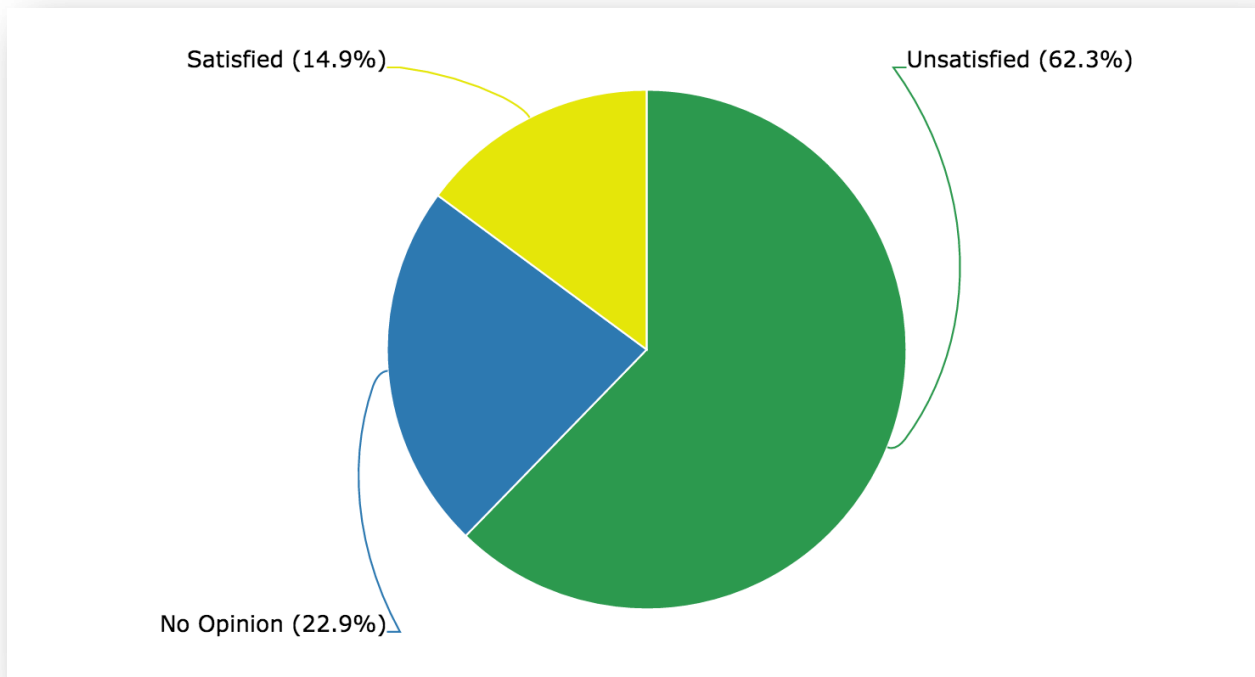
Responses to the questions were initially analyzed by SurveyGizmo.com, the website hosting the survey. Additional analyses were completed by the Board of Directors of Cardinal Newman Academy. Finally, a professional data analyst was engaged to conduct more sophisticated analysis and to produce the graphics enclosed in this report.

i. High School Options

There are only three Catholic high schools in the Greater Richmond area: Blessed Sacrament Huguenot Catholic School, Benedictine College Preparatory, and St. Gertrude High School. Blessed Sacrament Huguenot Catholic School is a coeducational, PK-12, Diocesan school located in Powhatan County, approximately 40 minutes from the city center. Benedictine College Preparatory, an independent, Catholic military high school for boys, is located in Goochland County, approximately thirty minutes from the center of Richmond. St. Gertrude High School, an independent, all-girls Catholic school, is located in the City of Richmond.

A large number of Catholic parents desire more options, as is evident from their answers to the question whether they were “satisfied with the options for Catholic high school education in Richmond.” Sixty-two percent of the study’s respondents answered they were not satisfied with the options. Table 1, on the next page, illustrates the responses to this question.

Table 1: Are you satisfied with your high school options?



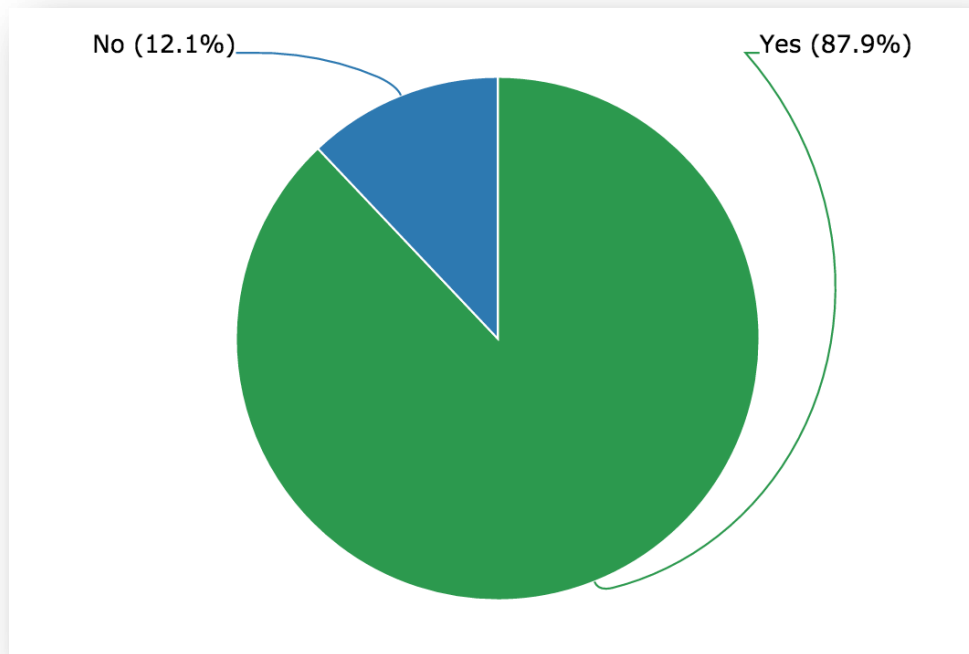
The survey asked respondents to state the reasons for their choice. The reasons given by those who were unsatisfied fell mainly into five categories:

- Lack of strong academic programs
- A desire for stronger Catholic instruction and culture
- Tuition rates
- Location
- Lack of a coeducational option

Other factors cited included dissatisfaction with extracurricular programs, a lack of a non-military option for boys, and a belief that Catholic high schools are not academically competitive with other private schools in the Greater Richmond area.

In another question, the survey asked respondents whether there was a need for a coeducational high school to serve the Catholic community. Table 2 shows respondents' answers.

Table 2: Is there a need for a coeducational Catholic high school?



Note that, although 62% indicated they were unsatisfied with their options, 88% believe there should be a coeducational high school to serve the Catholic community. Many who are satisfied with their options, therefore, nevertheless believe additional choice is needed.

These two graphs indicate an overwhelming interest among Catholic families for an additional high school choice in the Richmond region.

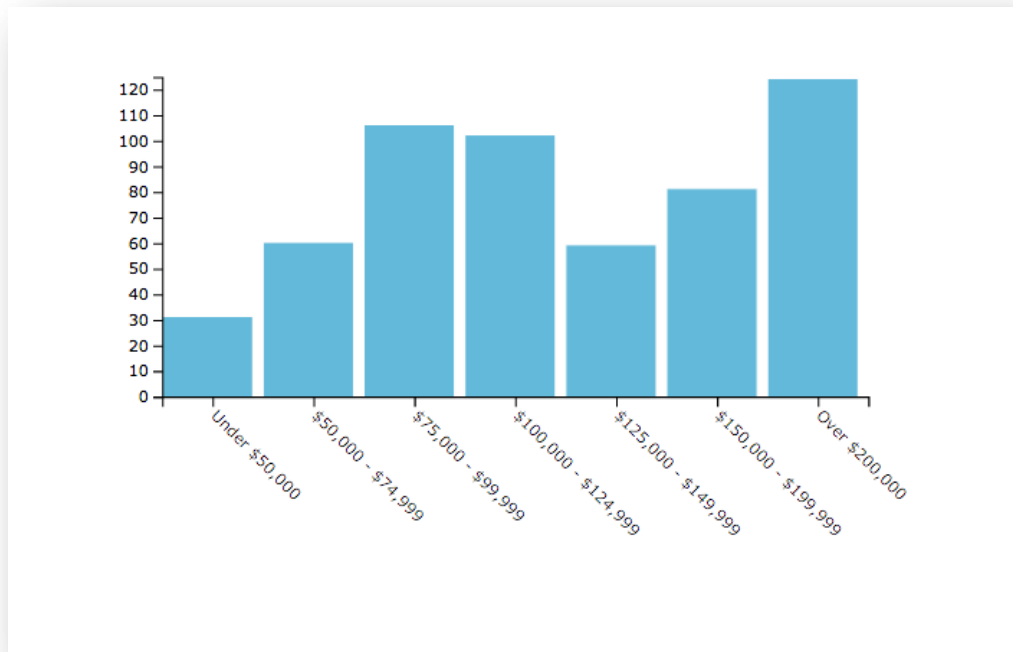
ii. Demographics

The survey included questions about family income, the age of respondents, and the location by zip code of the respondents.

Although the question regarding income was noted as optional, 570 respondents answered the question. The three income brackets identified by the most respondents were as follows. Approximately 22% earn an annual income over \$200,000.00, approximately 19% earn an annual income between \$75,000.00-\$99,999.00, and approximately 18% earn an annual income between

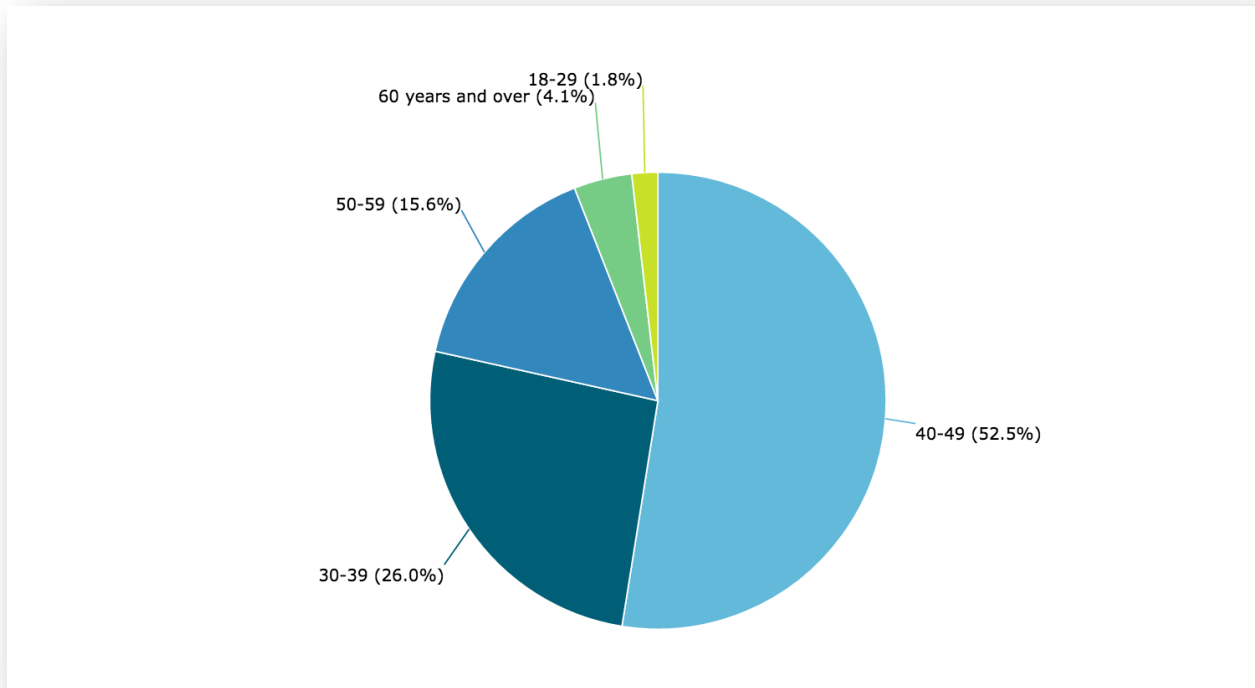
\$100,000.00-\$124,999.00. Approximately 64%, therefore, earn over \$100,000.00 per year. The reported ranges of annual income are represented below in Table 3.

Table 3: Income of Respondents



In addition to requesting the respondents' income, the survey asked for the respondents' age. The profile of respondents relative to age indicated that 53%, or 344 respondents, were between 40 and 49 year of age, with a mean age of 39.4 years. Table 4, set forth on the next page, illustrates the age of respondents.

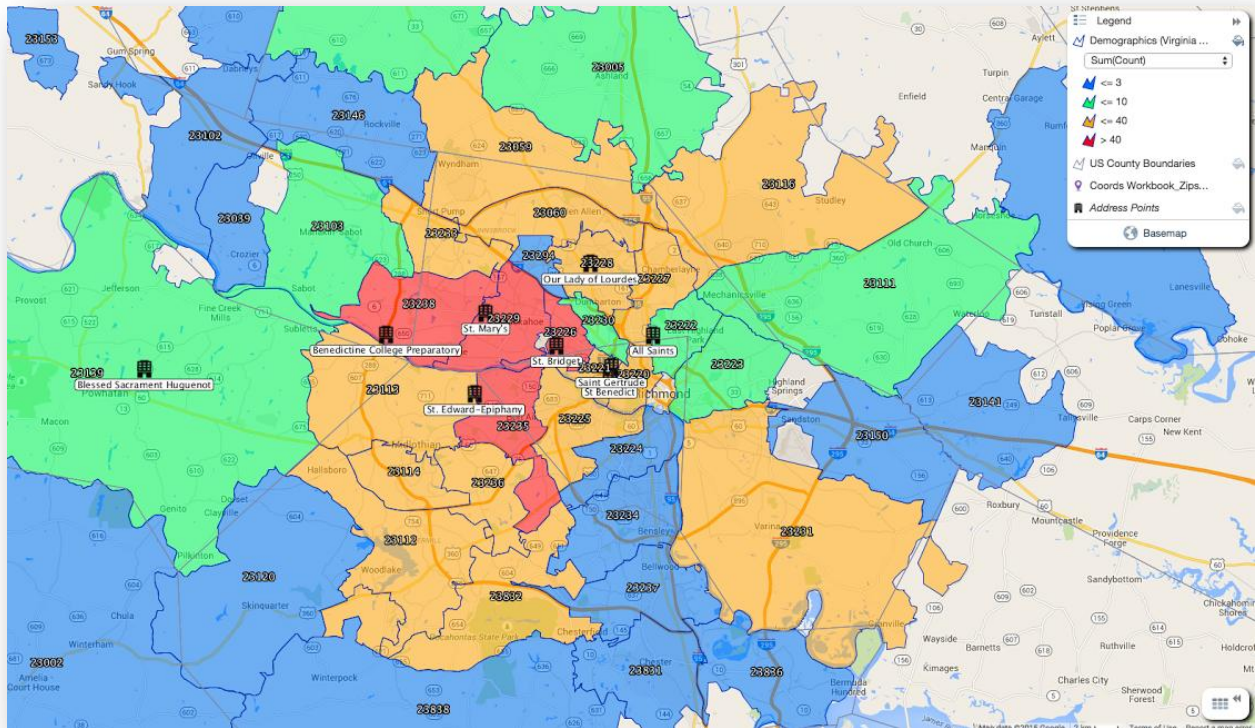
Table 4: Respondents' Age



As this chart indicates, approximately 80% of respondents are under the age of 50. These numbers suggest a young, growth market for Cardinal Newman Academy. The age and income of the respondents indicate great potential for growth and possible financial support for the school as their children reach high school grades.

The location of this growth market is evident from the geographic location of respondents. On the next page, Table 5 shows the location and number of respondents by zip code (an enlarged version of Table 5 is attached as **Appendix C**). Although a wide area was represented, the most densely populated zip codes among respondents were 23235, 23238, 23229, and 23226. These zip codes comprise parts of the City of Richmond, Northern Chesterfield County, Western Henrico County, and Eastern Goochland County.

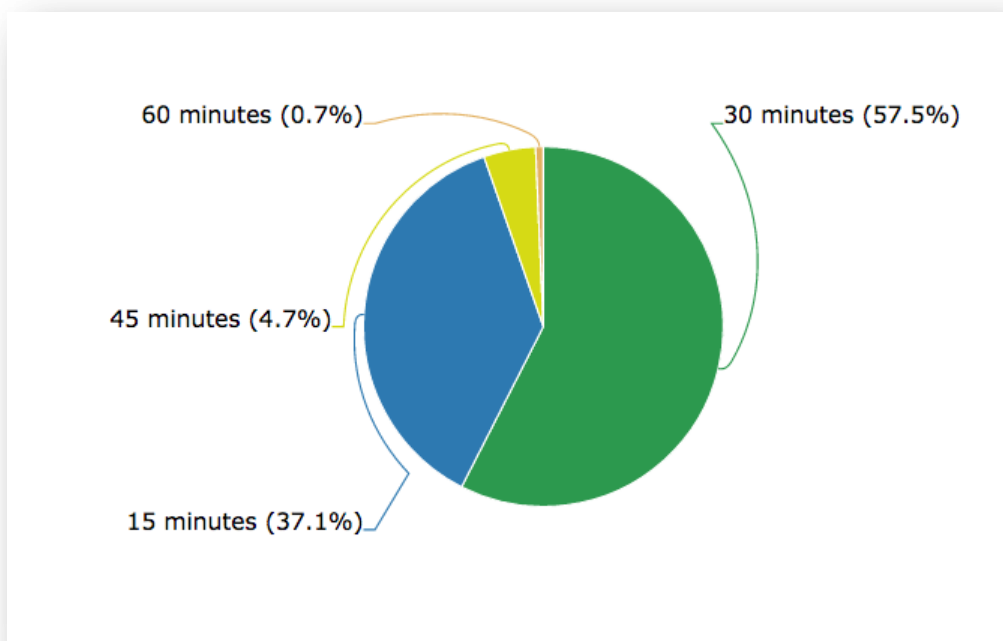
Table 5: Heat Map of Respondent Location



As the legend indicates, the zip codes in red contain more than 40 respondents each, zip codes in orange contain 11-40 each, the zip codes in green contained 4-10 respondents each, and the zip codes in blue contained 1-3 respondents each.

Respondents were also asked the maximum time they would be willing to have their children travel one way to attend. Approximately 58% selected “30 minutes.” Table 6, on the next page, shows the results of this question.

Table 6: Travel Times



Approximately 63%, therefore, are willing to travel at least 30 minutes to attend Cardinal Newman Academy. This suggests a willingness on the part of parents to sacrifice for their child's education and offers the Board of Directors some flexibility in determining the ultimate location for the school. Taking into account this willingness to travel and the location of the respondents in Table 5, the Board intends to locate the school somewhere in close proximity to western Henrico County, northern Chesterfield County, or in the western part of the City.

iii. Parish and School Representation

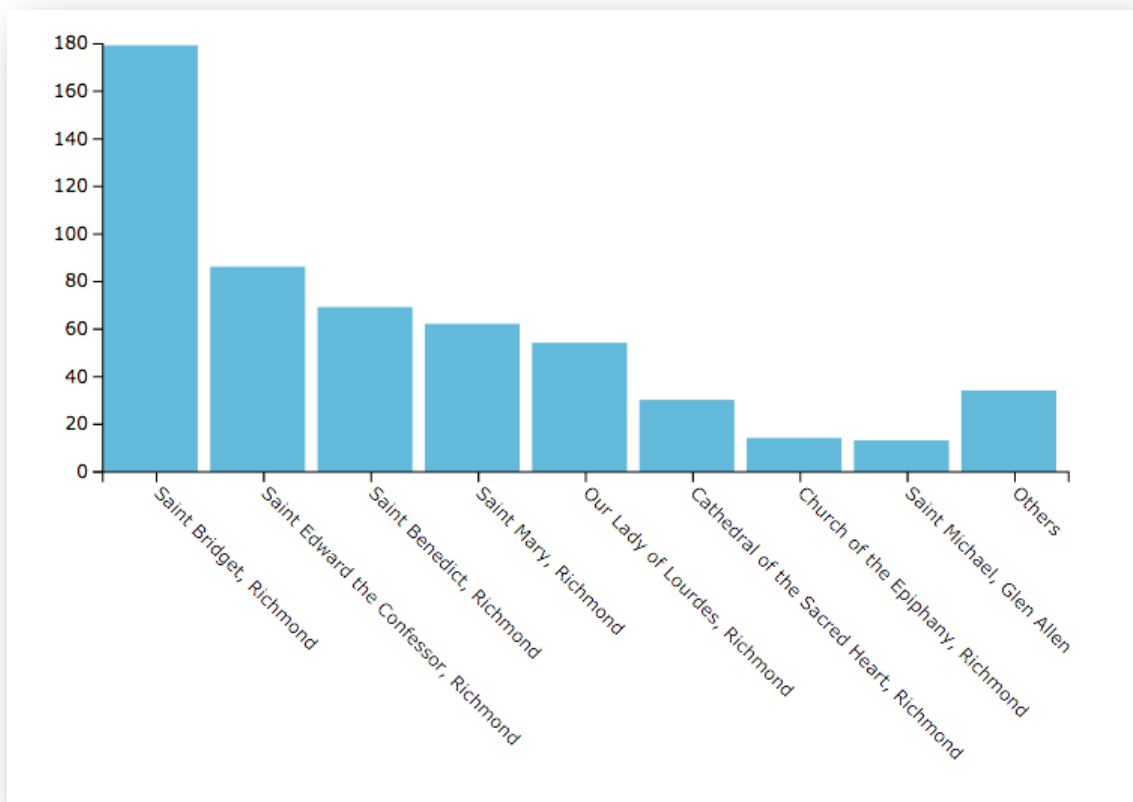
Ninety percent (90%) of those who completed the survey indicated that they were Catholic, with 89% registered in a specific parish. Twenty (20) Catholic parishes were represented in the survey, with the greatest membership at the five parishes listed below:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Respondents</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>
• Saint Bridget, Richmond	180	23226

• Saint Edward the Confessor, Richmond	87	23235
• Saint Benedict, Richmond	70	23221
• Saint Mary, Richmond	63	23229
• Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond	55	23228

A graphic of parish membership is set forth in Table 7.

Table 7: Parish Membership of Respondents



While participation was greatest from those parishes that have a parochial elementary school, these data indicate participation and interest from a broad range of Richmond parishes. In addition to respondents who self-identified as Catholic, 6%, or 39 individuals, stated that they were members of a non-Catholic church and 4%, or 25 individuals, indicated that they had no church affiliation.

The Catholic elementary schools in the Richmond region were also well represented. The survey asked respondents to indicate the grade of their children and the school in which the children were enrolled. Respondents' children were enrolled at the six Catholic elementary schools in the Richmond region as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Number of Children</u>
• St. Bridget School	196
• St. Edward-Epiphany Catholic School	191
• St. Mary's Catholic School	147
• Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School	131
• St. Benedict Catholic School	71
• All Saints Catholic School	15

Among those who responded to the survey, therefore, 751 children are enrolled at a Catholic parochial elementary school in the Richmond region.

iv. Catholic School Experience

Three hundred sixty-three (363) respondents, or 56% of those who answered the question, indicated that they had attended a Catholic school at either the elementary or secondary levels. Respondents were asked to provide what level of Catholic education they received by indicating whether they had attended the following:

- Catholic elementary school
- Catholic single-sex high school
- Catholic coeducational high school

One hundred and six (106) respondents indicated that they had attended a coeducational Catholic high school. Of those, 93 had also attended a Catholic elementary school. One hundred and sixty-

one (161) respondents indicated that they had attended a single-sex Catholic high school, 132 of whom had also attended a Catholic elementary school. Notably, 97 respondents, or approximately 27%, had attended a Catholic elementary school but did not go on to attend a Catholic high school.

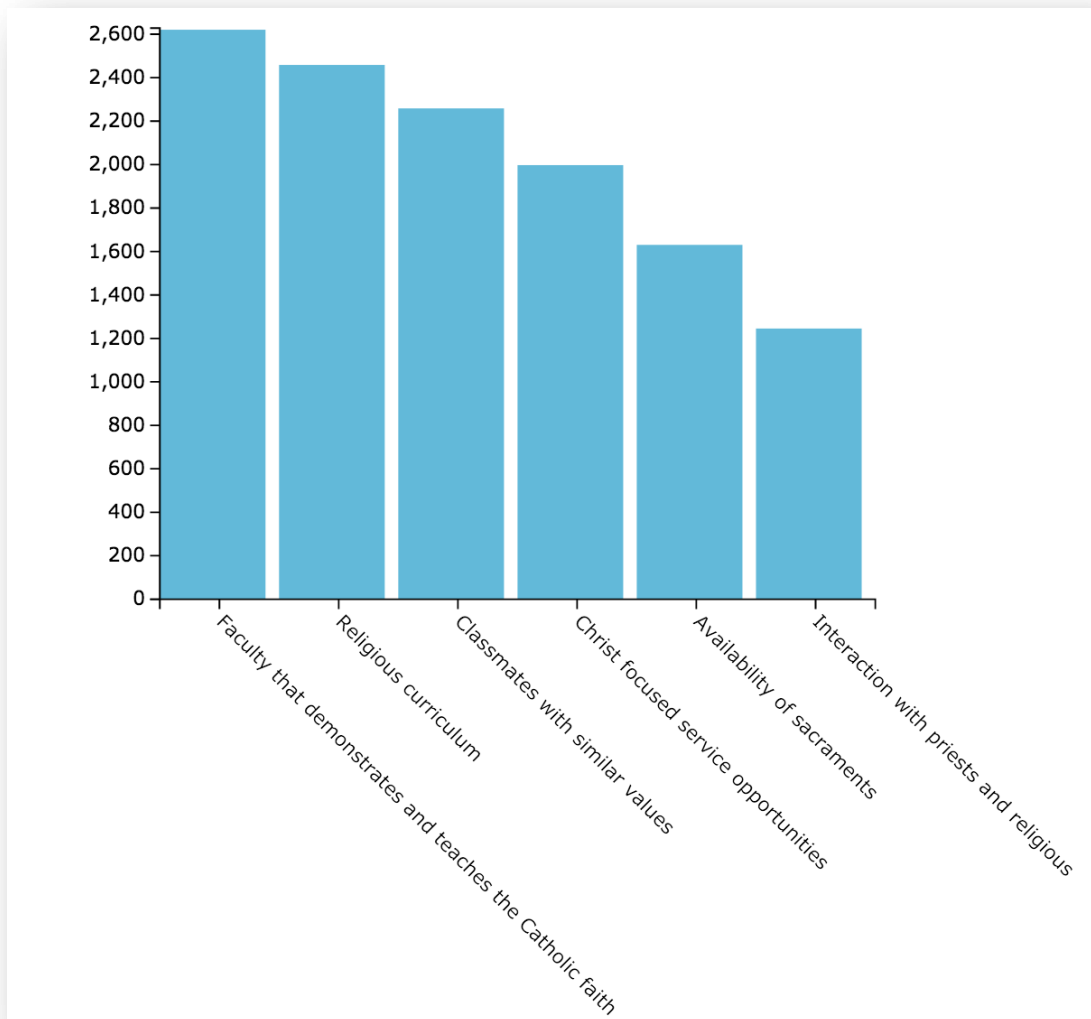
It is notable that the number of respondents who attended Catholic school is significantly lower than the number of respondents who believe there is a need for an additional high school for the Catholic community. While 56% went to Catholic school, 88% believe in the value, importance, and growth of Catholic educational opportunities, as indicated previously in Table 2.

v. Academic Expectations

Cardinal Newman Academy hopes to provide an education, in the words of Pope Francis, “that looks to the integral development of the person and that responds to the right of all to accede to learning and knowledge.” To accomplish this goal, Cardinal Newman Academy will be faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, will foster good habits to cultivate virtue and character, and will help students develop morally and spiritually to evangelize the world for Christ. The fundamental principle guiding our education is what Pope Francis calls “the Christian proposal, namely Jesus Christ as the meaning of life, of the cosmos and of history.”

Following the teaching of the Church, Cardinal Newman Academy believes that parents are the primary educators of their children and that the school’s role is to assist parents in this task. For that reason, survey participants were asked to provide input regarding certain elements of faith formation. For example, respondents were asked to rank six aspects of a Catholic education. According to a weighted system that accounted for both the ranking of each category and the total number of times each category appeared, respondents were most concerned with having a faculty that demonstrated and taught the Catholic faith, and a religious curriculum. Table 8, on the next page, indicates how important the following factors are to respondents.

Table 8: Factors in Faith Formation



Respondents were also given the option to provide additional factors related to Catholic instruction that are important to them. The factors most frequently cited included the following:

- A strong Catholic identity and community
- High quality and unique curriculum
- Orthodox religious education
- Access to Catholic education for all socioeconomic levels
- Building character and virtue in students

In addition, respondents were asked to weigh, on a scale of one to ten, the importance of the following factors with regard to a high school education:

- Academic excellence
- Opportunity for college placement
- Character formation
- Disciplined learning environment
- Cost
- Technology integration
- Religious instruction
- Catholic identity
- Small class size
- Extracurricular programs
- Athletic programs
- Location
- Coed education

Clustering the factors most commonly ranked together as the most important revealed that over 75% of respondents put the highest priority on factors addressing academic rigor: academic excellence and the opportunity for college placement. Approximately 65% of respondents placed the highest priority on factors addressing faith formation: Catholic identity, religious instruction, and character formation. Following the factors pertaining to academic rigor and faith formation, cost was the next most important factor.

When it comes to faith formation, respondents care most about Catholic faculty who teach and live their faith. The Board of Directors also believe this is paramount in establishing a rich culture in the Catholic tradition and are committed to hiring a head of school who will staff the school with Catholic faculty. When it comes to a high school education overall, respondents are most concerned with academic rigor. While many factors were given high priority by respondents, it is clear that parents' primary interest is in an educational program that helps their child flourish. Cardinal Newman Academy intends to deliver on that expectation by developing confident, articulate, young men and women with well-formed consciences and a well-rounded knowledge base. Cardinal Newman Academy's graduates will not merely do well in their college or professional

careers, but will become cornerstones of their families and communities through their wisdom, joy, and charity.

vi. Financial Considerations and Growth Potential

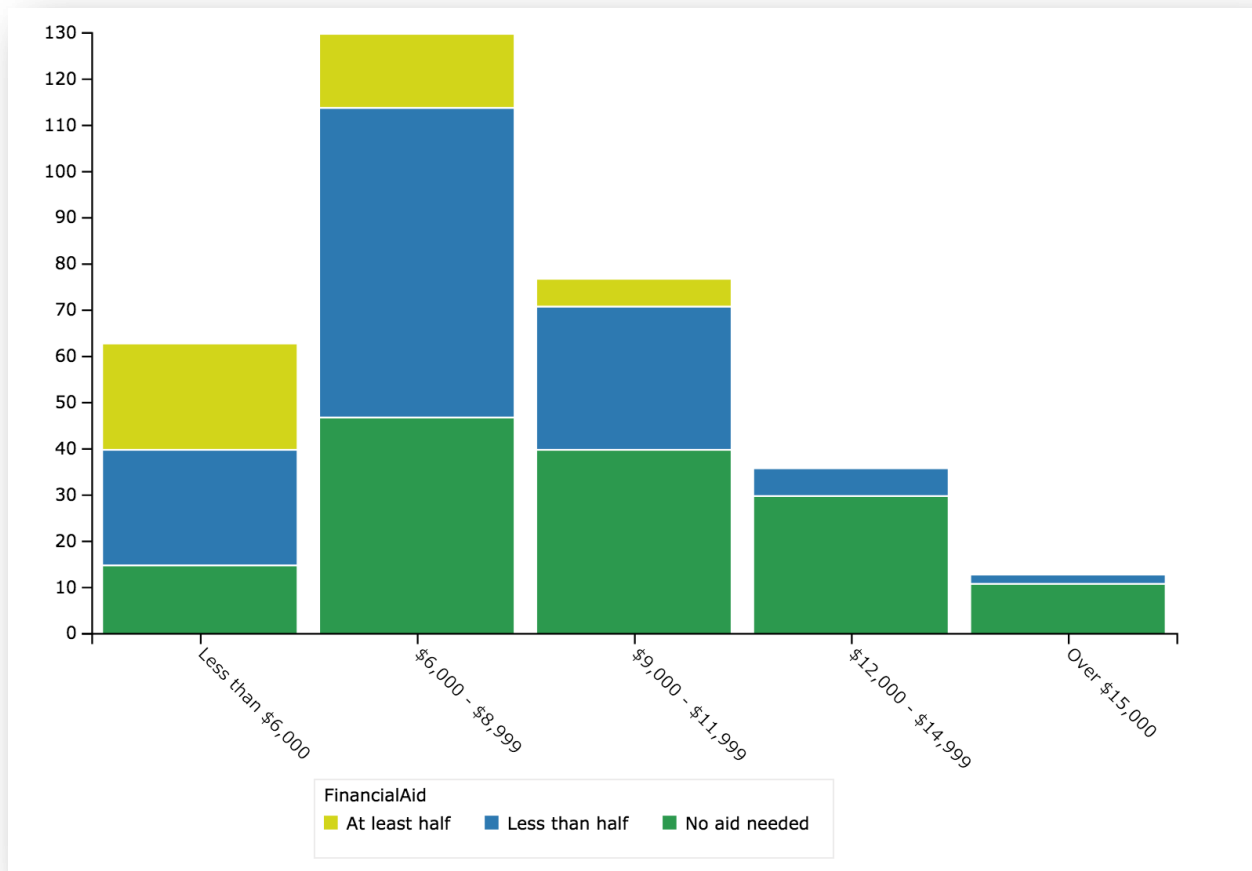
A large number of respondents expressed concern about the cost of existing high schools in the Richmond area. To determine the tuition range most acceptable to the respondents, two questions were asked. First, the survey asked the respondent to indicate what tuition range they could afford from the following options:

- Less than \$6,000
- \$6,000-\$8,999
- \$9,000-\$11,999
- \$12,000-\$14,999
- Over \$15,000

To determine the extent to which the respondent provided their ideal tuition range with financial aid in mind, the survey then asked the following question: “Assuming tuition in the range you selected, what amount of financial aid would you need?”

For those who selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their first or second choice for high school, and who have children in 6th grade (who would thus be entering high school in the fall of 2017) or below, the answers to these two questions can be seen on the next page, in Table 9.

Table 9: Tuition Range and Financial Aid Needed with Cardinal Newman Academy as 1st or 2nd Choice



As Table 9 indicates, the highest number of respondents selected the tuition range of \$6,000-\$8,999. Forty-seven respondents who selected the \$6,000-\$8,999 range, and 40 respondents who selected the \$9,000-\$11,999 range, indicated that they would not need any financial aid. In addition, for those who selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their first or second choice, a majority selected between \$6,000-\$12,000 as the most feasible tuition range, with the highest number of respondents selecting the \$6,000-\$8,999 range.

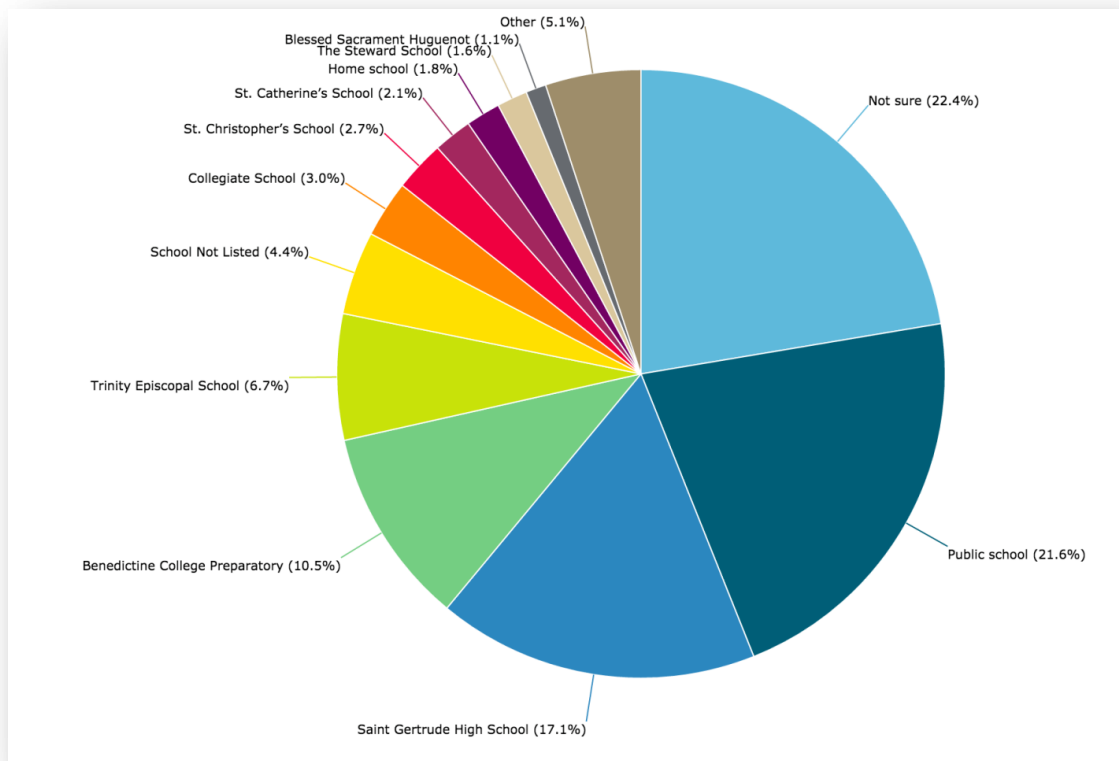
The goal of the Board of Directors is to keep tuition at or below \$10,000 per year. At that amount, a large number of those who selected the \$6,000-\$8,999 range would be able to afford the school with little or no aid, and a majority of those who selected a higher range would as well. As the

Board continues its work founding the school, and in particular formulating a budget, more information will be provided to parents regarding the tuition amount.

vii. Choosing Cardinal Newman Academy

Sixty-two percent (62%) of respondents indicated they were not satisfied with the choices available for a Catholic high school education in the Greater Richmond area. Further, 88% of respondents believe there is a need for a coed Catholic high school. Based on schools currently in operation, respondents with children enrolled in eighth grade or lower were asked where they planned to send their child to high school. Approximately 21% selected public school, approximately 17% selected Saint Gertrude High School, approximately 10% selected Benedictine College Preparatory, and approximately 1% selected Blessed Sacrament Huguenot. Responses are summarized below in Table 10.

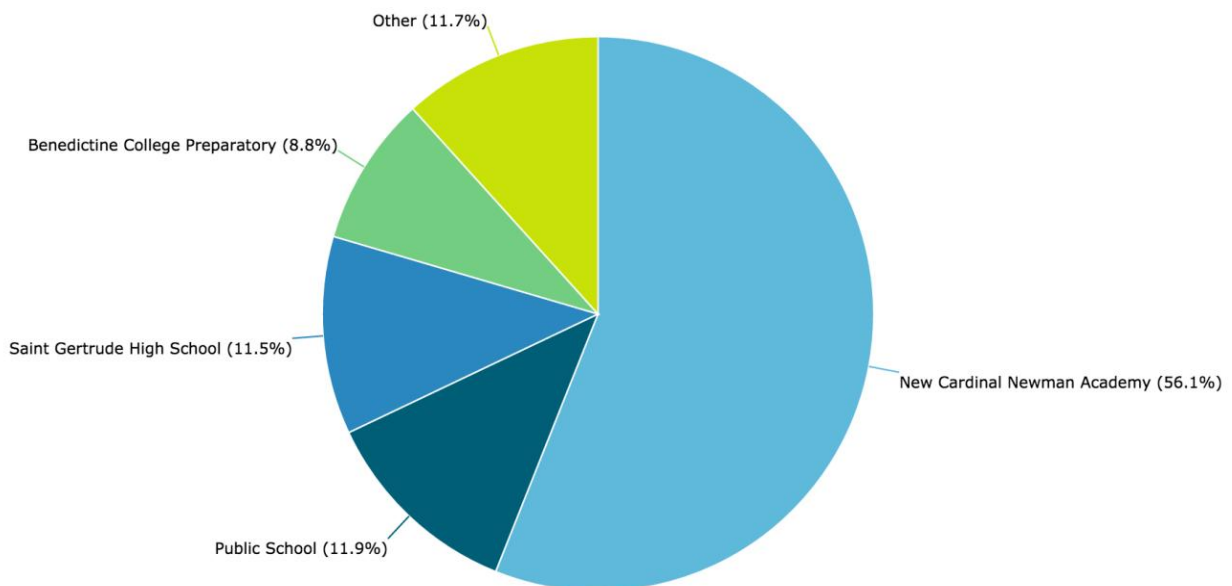
Table 10: High School Choice without Cardinal Newman Academy



Excluding those who selected Saint Gertrude High School (17.1%), Benedictine College Preparatory (10.5%), or Blessed Sacrament Huguenot (1.1%), or who indicated they were unsure of their high school choice (22.4%), over 50% of respondents indicated their intent not to send their child to a Catholic high school.

Respondents were then asked to select their top three choices for high school if Cardinal Newman Academy was available. Three-hundred and one (301) respondents, or 56% of those who answered the question, indicated Cardinal Newman Academy as their first choice. The first choice selection is represented in Table 11.

Table 11: Top High School Choice if Cardinal Newman Academy Opens



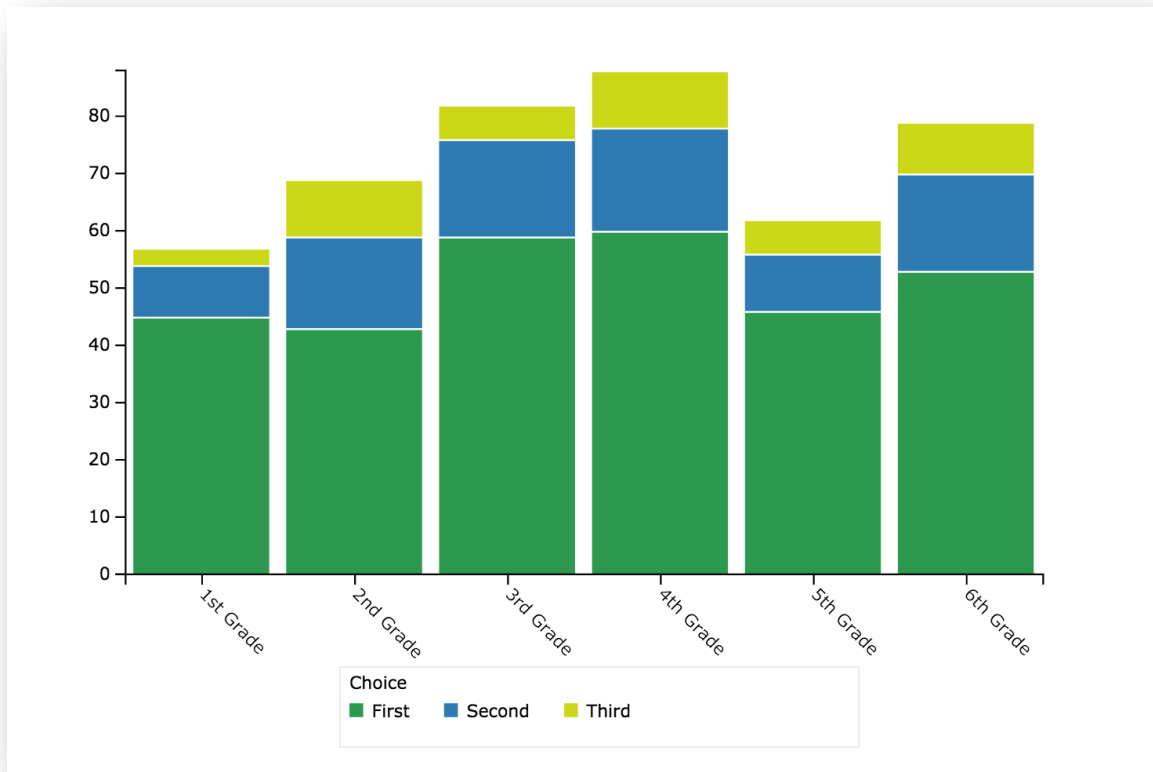
Within the “Other” slice, the answers were diverse. Veritas School and The Steward School were selected by one respondent each, and “Home School” was selected by three respondents. Five and six respondents, respectively, selected St. Catherine’s School and St. Christopher’s School. Nine

respondents selected Trinity Episcopal School, 11 respondents selected Collegiate School, and 27 selected “Other.”

Comparing Tables 11 and 10 provides several insights regarding where parents who are interested in Cardinal Newman Academy would send their children to high school with their current options. First, the percentage of respondents indicating Saint Gertrude and Benedictine College Preparatory as their top choice fell only 5.5% and 1.5%, respectively, when Cardinal Newman Academy is considered. The majority of those who selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their top choice intend to send their children to public school given the current options. Of those who selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their top choice, 99 respondents selected “Public School” as their second choice. In all, 64% of those who selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their top choice selected a non-Catholic school as their secondary choice. Given this majority of respondents who intend to send their children to non-Catholic schools, the establishment of Cardinal Newman Academy will not adversely impact other Catholic schools in the region.

In addition to the 56% who selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their top choice, 21% selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their second choice, and 12% selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their third choice. Table 12, on the next page, illustrates, by their childrens’ grade, those who selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their first, second, or third choice.

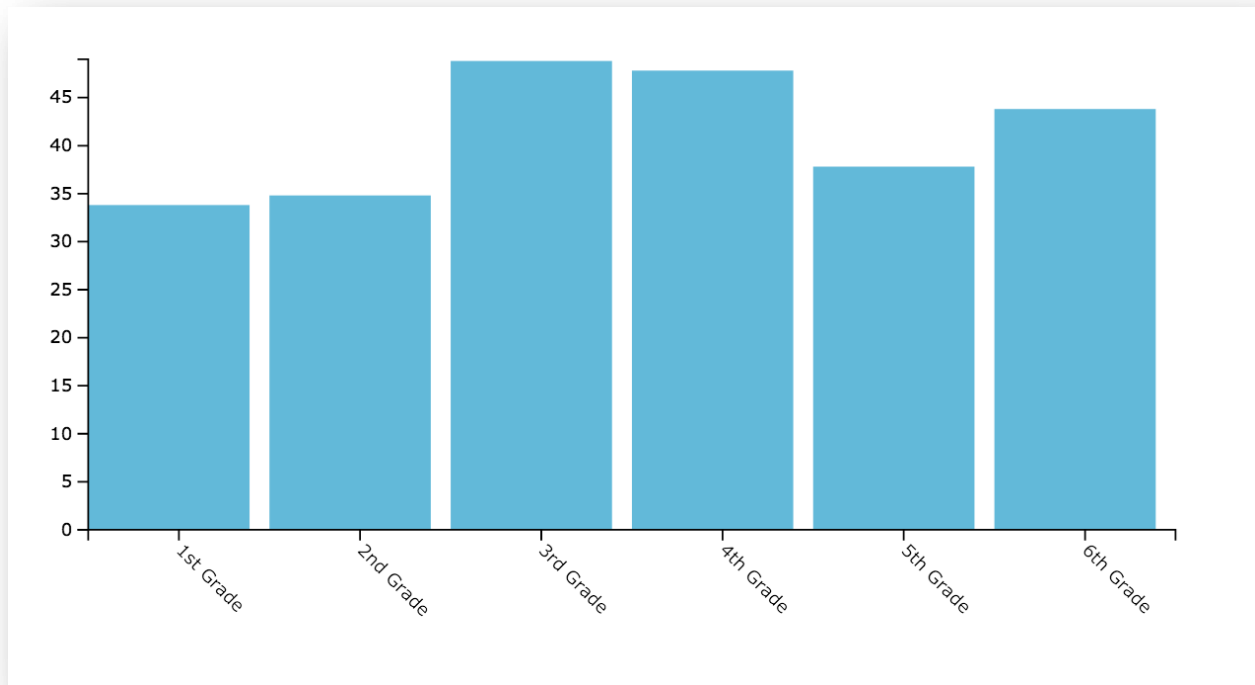
Table 12: Cardinal Newman Academy as Choice 1-3



As Table 12 illustrates, 53 respondents with children in sixth grade at the time of the survey, the potential freshman class in 2017, selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their top choice. Forty-six (46) respondents with children in fifth grade, who would be ninth graders in the fall of 2018, selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their top choice. Notably, a large number of respondents with children either in pre-kindergarten or not yet in school also indicated Cardinal Newman Academy as their top choice. These numbers indicate a high level of interest in Cardinal Newman Academy among parents with children who will enter high school for the next nine years.

Respondents who indicated Cardinal Newman Academy as their top choice were then asked to indicate their certainty of enrolling. On the next page, Table 13 illustrates the responses of those with children in grades one to six who indicated they would definitely or likely enroll their child at Cardinal Newman Academy.

Table 13: Cardinal Newman Academy as Top Choice: Likelihood of Enrolling

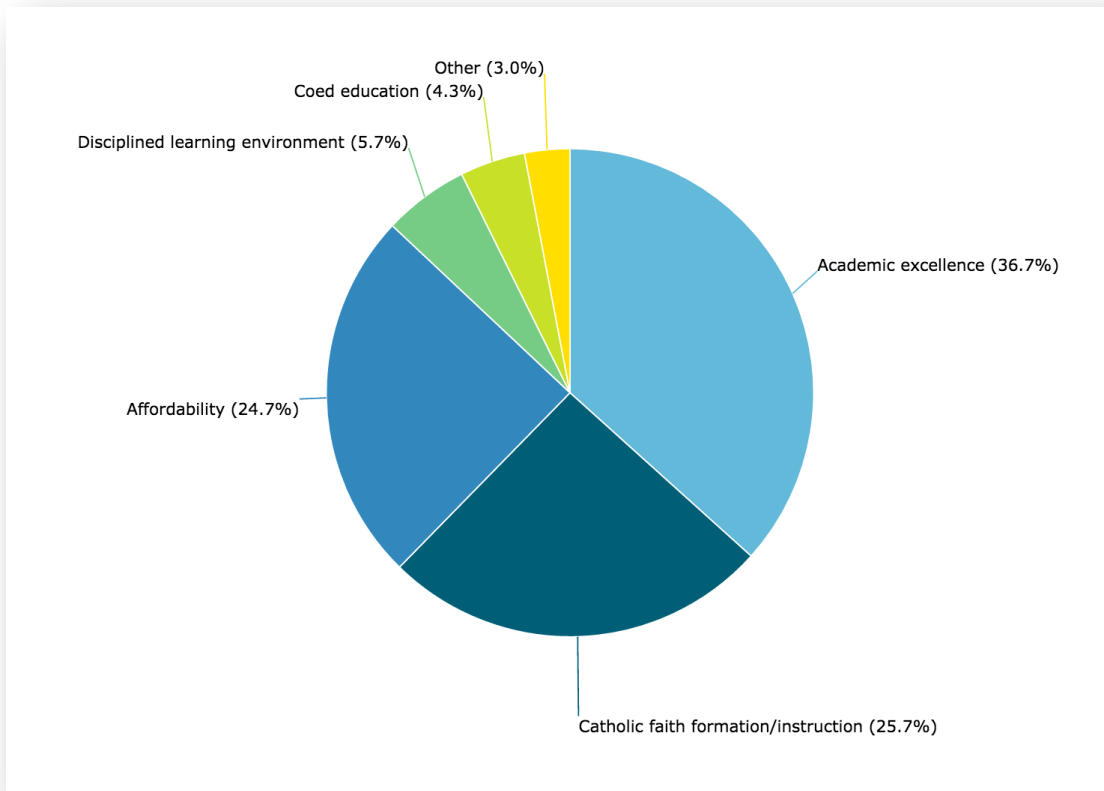


Of those with children in sixth grade, who would be freshman in 2017, 44 indicated that they would definitely or likely enroll their child. Of those with children in fifth grade, who would be freshman in 2018, 38 indicated they would definitely or likely enroll.

For those who selected Cardinal Newman Academy as their top choice, respondents were then asked to rank from a list the top three reasons why they would enroll. Respondents were given the following factors:

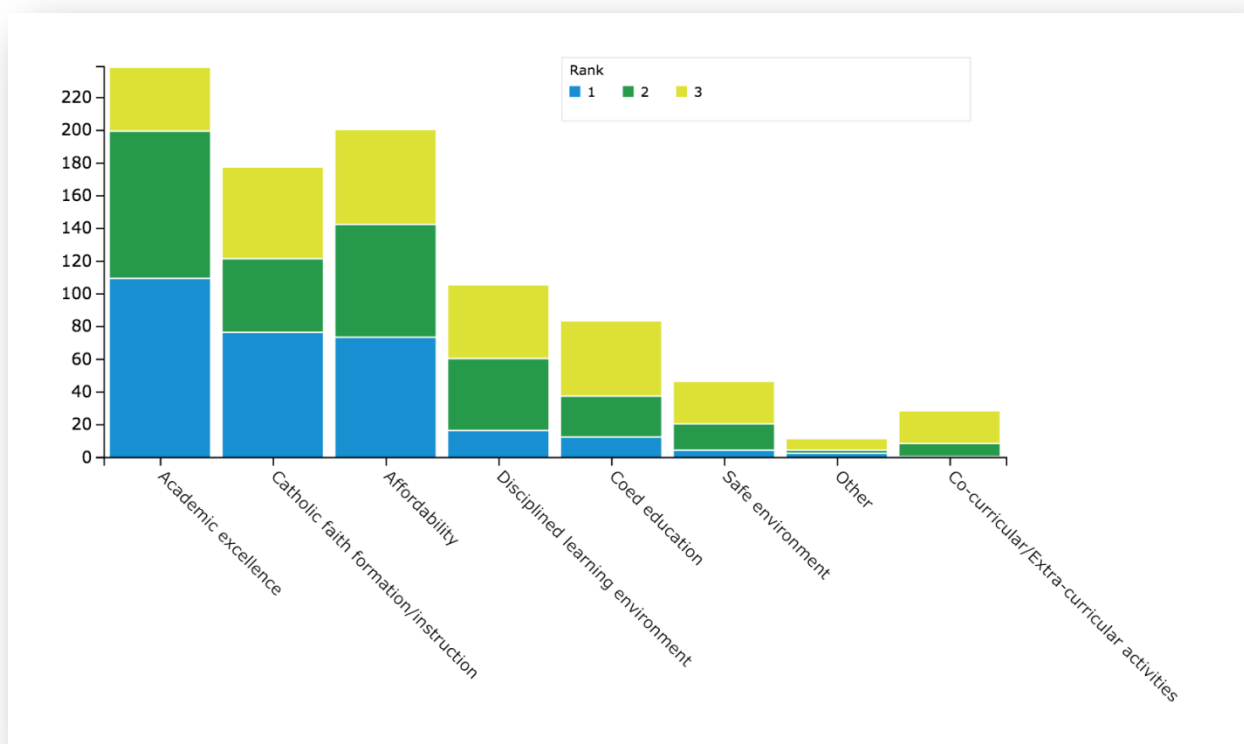
- Academic excellence
- Affordability
- Catholic formation/instruction
- Coed education
- Co-curricular/extra-curricular activities
- Disciplined learning environment
- Safe environment
- Other

Table 14: Primary Reason to Enroll in Cardinal Newman Academy



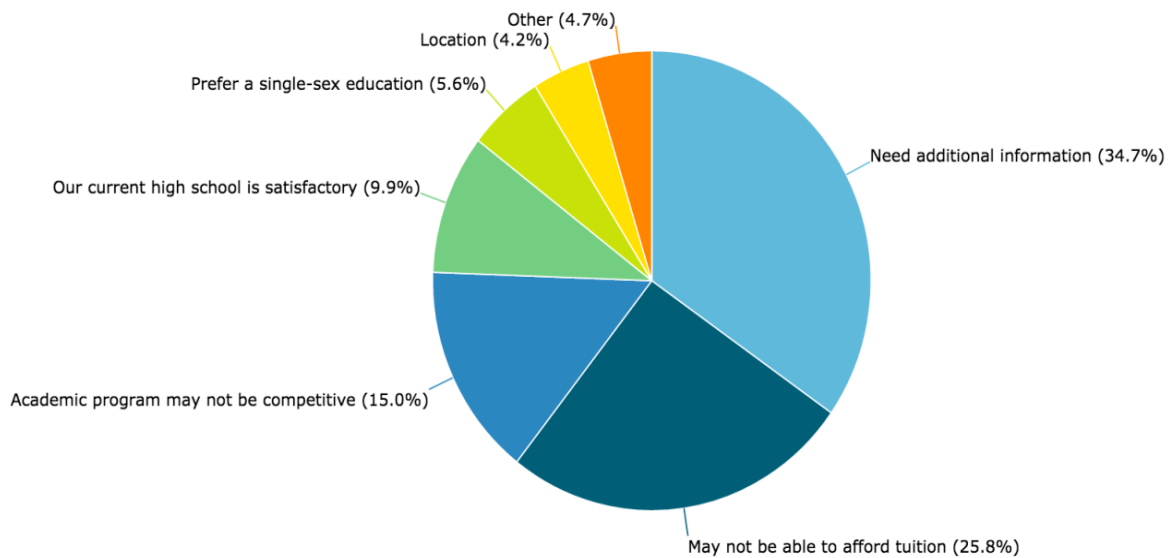
As Table 14 indicates, approximately 37% indicated that academic excellence was their primary reason for selecting Cardinal Newman Academy; approximately 26% said that Catholic faith formation/instruction was their primary reason; and approximately 25% indicated that affordability was their primary reason. These results mirror the priority of the Board of Directors, whose mission has always been to found a school that provides an excellent education in the Catholic tradition at an affordable cost. The top three reasons as ranked by respondents are set forth in Table 15, on the next page.

Table 15: Ranked Reasons to Enroll in Cardinal Newman Academy



A question was also included to determine why respondents would not enroll their student in Cardinal Newman Academy. Respondents were asked to rank their top three reasons for not enrolling. Table 16, on the next page, shows respondents' first choice.

Table 16: Primary Reason not to Enroll in Cardinal Newman Academy



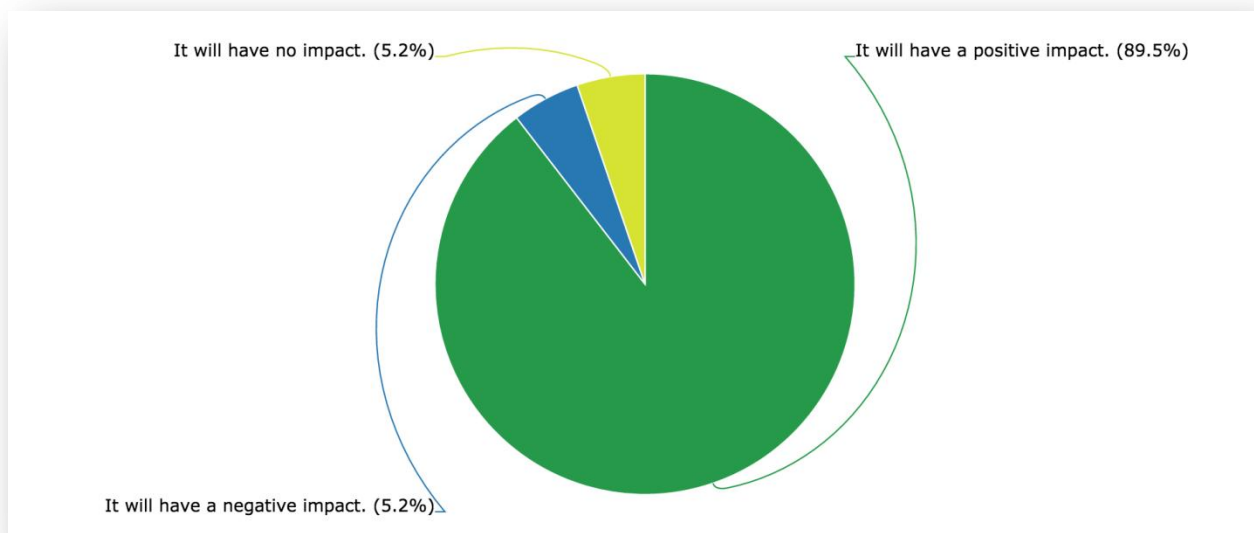
Notably, only around 15% selected a reason for not enrolling that constitutes firm opposition to Cardinal Newman Academy: a preference for single-sex education (5.6%), or satisfaction with their current high school (9.9%). The biggest reason for not wanting to enroll was the need for additional information (34.7%). The second most common concern was the ability to afford tuition (25.8%). Both of these categories leave an opening for the Board to garner support from those respondents who did not select Cardinal Newman Academy as their top choice of school. As the founding of the school continues, information about the school will continue to be transmitted to parents. In addition, the Board is aware of concerns about affordability, which were voiced throughout the survey. As a result of these concerns, and the Catholic Church's consistent emphasis on the necessity of affordable education, the Board will take serious measures to offer reasonable tuition.

With these efforts, many of those who expressed reluctance about enrolling their child at Cardinal Newman Academy may commit to supporting the school.

viii. Impact on the Richmond Catholic Community

Cardinal Newman Academy will be built on the foundation of educating children in the Catholic faith. Therefore, it is important to ascertain the potential impact a new school would have on the Catholic community and existing educational options in the Richmond area. As already noted, respondents are largely unsatisfied with their current options for high school and believe there is a need for a coeducational high school to serve the Catholic community. In addition to these questions, respondents were asked whether they thought Cardinal Newman Academy would have a positive impact, a negative impact, or no impact on the community. Ninety percent (90%) of respondents believed the new school would have a positive impact, while 5% felt it would have no impact. Only 5% felt that a new high school would have a negative impact on the community. Table 17 illustrates the responses.

Table 17: Cardinal Newman Academy's Impact on the Community



Respondents were also asked to explain the reasons for their answer. Reasons given for selecting “negative impact” nearly all focused on the belief that Cardinal Newman Academy would adversely affect existing Catholic high schools. Reasons given for selecting “positive impact” varied. Many indicated the effects teaching the Catholic faith would have in forming virtuous adults; others stated that service opportunities for teenage students would allow them to make a tangible impact on the community; still others cited the potential for the school to contribute to the positive “Catholic image” in the community. Another frequent comment was that competition with existing high schools would increase the quality of all area schools. Many respondents felt that increased access to affordable secondary level education would allow students who would otherwise attend public high schools to remain in a faith-based school. This sentiment is supported by Tables 10 and 11, which indicate that the largest category of people selecting Cardinal Newman Academy as their top high school choice otherwise intend to send their child to public school.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of the feasibility study was to determine the viability of establishing Cardinal Newman Academy. The data from this study confirm that founding Cardinal Newman Academy is both feasible and essential. Catholic parents in the Richmond region yearn for more high school choice and believe a coeducational option is needed to serve the Catholic community. Many respondents expressed interest in sending their child to Cardinal Newman Academy based on the vision for academic and faith formation, affordability, and their desire for additional choice. Most respondents believe the school will have a positive effect on the Richmond Catholic community. Because most parents who indicated their interest in Cardinal Newman Academy currently intend to send their child to a non-Catholic school, the data from the study confirm this belief and suggest that the overall effect will be to improve and expand educational options for Catholic families without negatively impacting existing Catholic high schools.

The survey enjoyed broad representation from both the Catholic parishes and parochial schools. Cardinal Newman Academy will serve the entire Richmond region, so having the support of Catholics from a variety of parishes and schools will be vital to the long-term success of our mission. The income and age of those who completed the survey suggest a young market poised for growth, which provides strong assurance that the school will flourish for years to come. Although the Board has not determined where the school will be located, the zip codes of the survey's respondents suggest that just west of the City is the most accessible and convenient for interested parents.

Parents believe strongly in having faculty who live and teach the Catholic faith, and place a priority on a rigorous academic program and the formation of their child's character. Affordability is also extremely important, to both the survey's respondents and Cardinal Newman Academy's Board of Directors. According to the survey, the Board's target tuition rate of \$10,000 per year is within a

majority of respondent's tuition range. As the Board finalizes its tuition rate and continues its development efforts, affordable tuition and financial aid will remain a priority.

It is the hope of Cardinal Newman Academy's Board of Directors that this report assists our mission of providing an excellent education to the Richmond Catholic community. Through their participation in and responses to this survey, Catholic parents have shown their interest in this mission. This report gives the Board confidence and resolve in securing its success. We hope you will join our efforts.



Cardinal Newman Academy
— Richmond, Virginia —

Mission Statement

Cardinal Newman Academy is an independent college preparatory high school dedicated to fostering academic excellence. Providing affordable, coeducational instruction, we aim to form the minds of students to know the truth and their wills to seek the good. Through their studies, our students learn “to reach out towards truth, and to grasp it” (Cardinal Newman). The moral formation of our students, encouraging and aiding them to seek the good, is an essential element of education at Cardinal Newman Academy. Through this pursuit of the good, students attain true freedom: “You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32).

This education is grounded in the liberal arts. By studying the classic works of Western Civilization, our students join the on-going conversation between the greatest minds about the highest truths. Through their education in the liberal arts, our students grow in wisdom and receive the foundation necessary for any educational path or career.

The truths of the Catholic Faith, as promulgated by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, establish a framework for all our studies. Through religion and the humanities, our students inherit a foundation of knowledge, develop as human beings, and come to know Jesus Christ and His Church. Through the mathematic and scientific disciplines, students learn of God’s creation and develop a sense of wonder about the natural world. And in all our disciplines, our students are exposed to the historical, cultural, and scientific opportunities of our Richmond, Virginia location.

This education aims primarily at the perfection of the human being. As Cardinal Newman states, “There is a knowledge worth possessing for what it is, and not merely for what it does.” This perfection is dependent on, and contributes to the well-being of, the communities in which the student lives and learns. For this reason, service to the community is an essential part of our education. Through rigorous academics and service to others, our students become faithful members of the Church, good citizens, and are prepared to excel in the modern world.



Cardinal Newman Academy
— Richmond, Virginia —

Vision Statement

Who we are

We are a group of lay Catholics in Richmond, Virginia, seeking to establish an independent, coeducational high school.

Our Mission

In accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church, Cardinal Newman Academy believes that parents are the primary educators of their children. Cardinal Newman Academy aims to assist parents in this noble task. We provide an education “that looks to the integral development of the person and that responds to the right of all to accede to learning and knowledge” (Pope Francis). Adherence to the teaching of the Catholic Church and a care for the establishment of good habits form our students morally and spiritually. The fundamental principle guiding our education is what Pope Francis calls “the Christian proposal, namely Jesus Christ as the meaning of life, of the cosmos and of history.” We are mindful that our final goal is charity, that is, friendship with Christ.

Our mission is to provide an affordable, coeducational, college preparatory high school that forms the minds of students to know the truth and their wills to seek the good. Through their studies, our students will learn “to reach out towards truth, and to grasp it” (Cardinal Newman). The moral formation of our students, encouraging and aiding them to seek the good, is an essential element of education at Cardinal Newman Academy. For this reason, Jesus Christ and the teachings of His Church establish a framework for all our studies.

Our education is grounded in the liberal arts, through which our students grow in wisdom and receive the foundation necessary for any educational path or career. This education aims primarily at the perfection of the human being. As Cardinal Newman states, “There is a knowledge worth possessing for what it is, and not merely for what it does.” Through a rigorous program of study and a commitment to serve their community, our students develop as human beings, become disciples of the Church and good citizens, and are prepared to excel in the modern world.

Program

Hallmarks of Cardinal Newman Academy will include:

- A rigorous college-preparatory curriculum that exposes students to the rich historical, cultural, and scientific opportunities available in Richmond, Virginia;
- Small class sizes with excellent faculty that are committed to the mission of the school, the teachings of the Catholic faith, and the growth and development of students in both character and wisdom;
- Co-curricular activities that complement the students’ education, including opportunities in athletics, the fine arts, and service to community;
- An house system that fosters competition, contributes to solidarity and a strong school morale, and encourages friendship and camaraderie among students across grade levels;
- A culture that fosters growth of body, mind, and soul, and is marked by the teaching and practice of character and virtue

Why Cardinal Newman?

John Henry Newman was a convert to Catholicism and an influential writer, preacher, and theologian. Cardinal Newman is highly regarded for his vision of education, especially as articulated in his *The Idea of a University*. As Pope Benedict XVI remarked at Cardinal Newman's beatification, he "sought to achieve an educational environment in which intellectual training, moral discipline and religious commitment would come together." Cardinal Newman exemplified a tradition of "gentle scholarship, deep human wisdom and profound love for the Lord." He lived a life of holiness and virtue and contributed immeasurably to the work of evangelization and education in the modern world. For his intellectual and spiritual virtues, John Henry Newman is a superlative role model for both a school and its students.

Accreditation

Cardinal Newman Academy will seek accreditation and will offer an academic program that exceeds state requirements.

Affiliation

Cardinal Newman Academy will be an independent high school governed by a board of directors. Cardinal Newman Academy will seek to be approved as an independent Catholic school located in the Diocese of Richmond.

Enrollment

Our intended first freshman class is Fall 2017. We will open with 9th grade and then add a grade each year. Cardinal Newman Academy will maintain a student body that ensures small class sizes. Although Cardinal Newman Academy will be open to people of all faiths, Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church will be central to the school.

Location

The school will be in a location convenient to the greater Richmond area. We are seeking to better understand the needs of families with respect to location through the feasibility study.

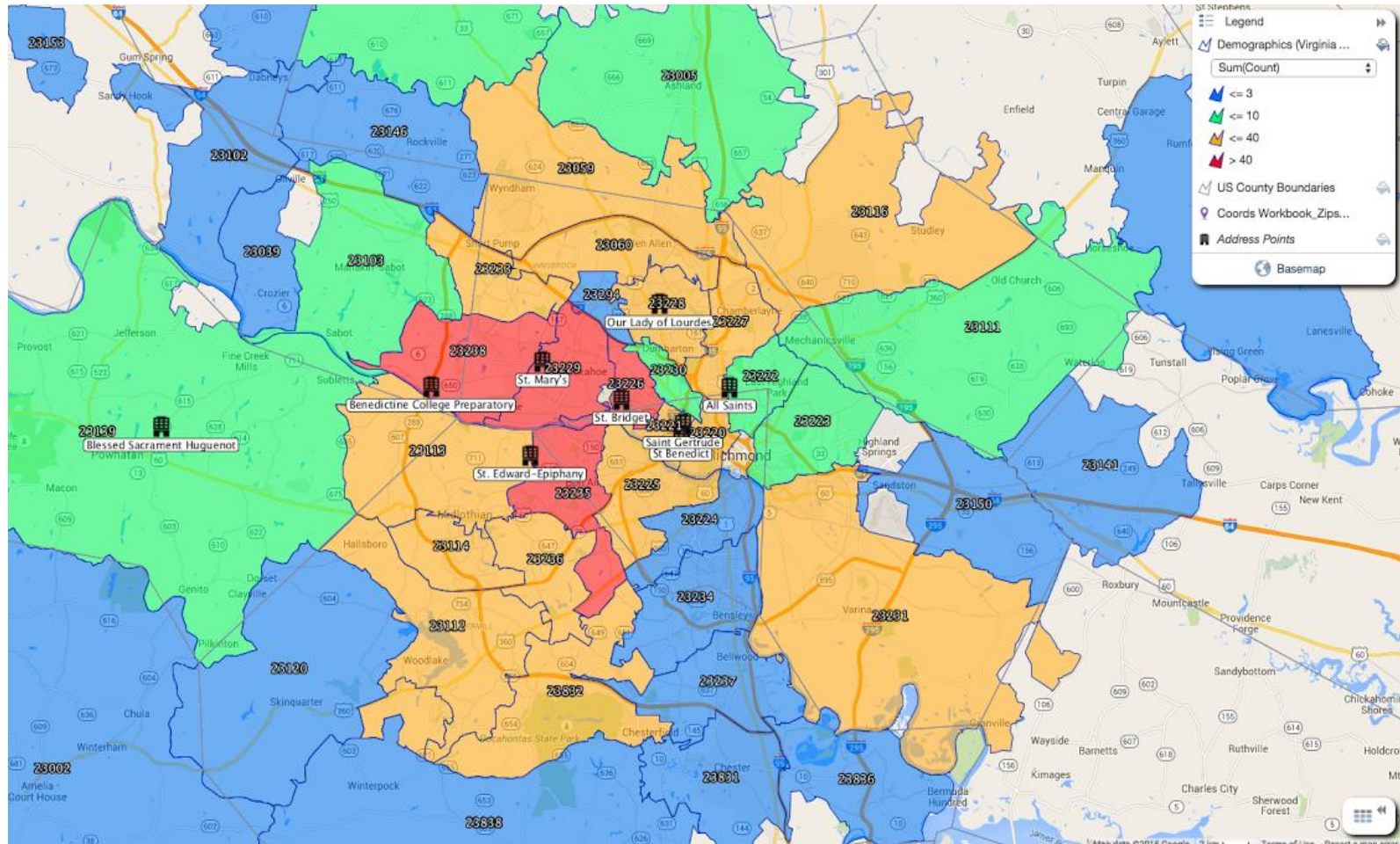
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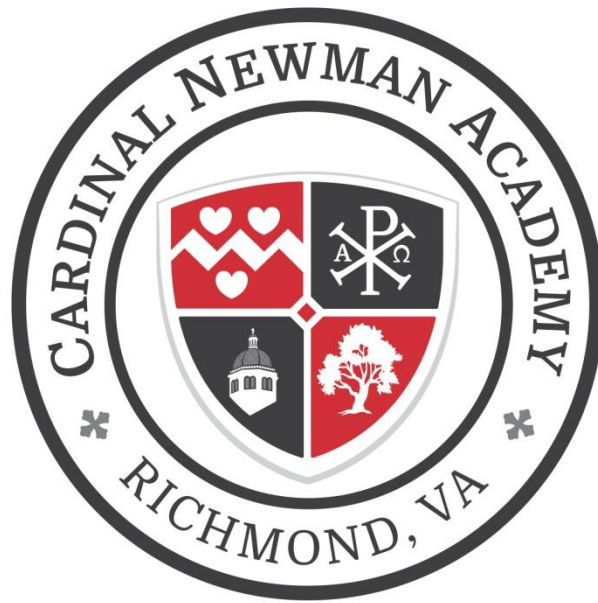
"It is the responsibility of the entire Catholic community . . . to continue to strive towards the goal of making our Catholic elementary and secondary schools available, accessible, and affordable to all Catholic parents and their children" (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). One of the core goals of Cardinal Newman Academy is to make tuition as affordable as possible. We intend to have a multi-child discount and financial aid assistance.



Cardinal Newman Academy

Richmond, Virginia





“Reach out towards truth and grasp it”

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