

**PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE**



# **NEWMAN VIRTUAL ACADEMY ARKANSAS**

**Charter Authorizing Panel Presentation  
October 16, 2024**





# **LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE**



Sheba George, Ph. D., Ed. D.  
Superintendent/CEO

**Newman-George International  
Education Organization (CMO)**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Dr. Sheba George**

**Augustine David**

**Dr. Gary Royer**

**Lt. Col. Moses George**

## **LEADERSHIP**

**Dr. Sheba George, Superintendent**

**Dr. Natalie Blasingame, Principal/Advisor**

**Dr. Jay Srinivasan, Managing Director**

**Mr. Sridhar Narayan, Director of Operations**



# THE NEED

## WHY ARKANSAS?



- State commitment to educational growth
- Commitment to provide families with educational choices that meets their needs, wants, & values
- Climate of support for charter success
- Growing statewide interest in flexible schooling options after pandemic
- Desire to serve migrant, rural, foster & homeless student populations with excellence
- Need for courses that match statewide industry demands- health science, business and finance, tech, hospitality, human services, communication



# THE SOLUTION

## WHY NEWMAN?

**We bring proven programs for a brighter future for each student and the state:**

- Fill a gap in course options available to students in rural, homeschool, and private settings
- Provide access to 100+ career courses for every student no matter their geography
- Provide flexible schooling options that match parents' values, needs, & preferences
- Effectively serve diverse student populations
- In partnership with Red Comet – an experienced virtual education provider- provide effective, state-of-the-art virtual schooling



# THE SOLUTION

## RED COMET EXPERIENCE

- One of the oldest virtual schools- operating since 1999
- Globally accredited by Cognia©
- Offers both virtual & blended learning models
- Students have successfully completed over 50,000 courses on the Red Comet platform
- Over 26,000 students have enrolled from across the nation
- Highly engaging / interactive curriculum resulting in a course completion rate of over 90%
- Offers state-of-the-art, technology-infused, STEM curriculum using Augmented and Virtual Reality
- Offers 45 career and skills pathways

# NEWMAN ACADEMY OVERVIEW



- **Vision & Mission**
- **Leadership & Governance**
- **History**
- **Demographics**
- **Stakeholder Feedback & Strengths**





# VISION AND MISSION





# VISION, MISSION & MOTTO

## Vision

Newman International Academy is dedicated to raising a generation/generations of well-rounded individuals who will realize their worth and purpose, find their interest and gifting, develop their skills, reach their highest potential, and meet the demands of this nation and world by receiving personalized educational experiences in a disciplined, nurturing and character-building environment facilitated through partnership between faculty, students, parents and community.

## Mission

The mission of Newman International Academy is to train and educate future generations of young men and women with wisdom, stature and favor; to give students opportunities to become whole individuals ready to serve the world by helping them reach their highest potential, and to provide in partnership with parents and community a well-rounded education within the context of American heritage.

## Motto

Building the whole person for the whole world by raising warriors of wisdom, stature and favor.





# **PROUD HISTORY**

**Newman International Academy**, a Pre-K-to-12th grade Charter approved by Texas Education Agency in 2010 after its application earned 298 out of a possible 300 points. The Academy opened in 2011 with 320 students on one campus. Thirteen years later, Newman International Academy (NIA) is now a school system with nearly 3,000 students in nine locations in five cities (Arlington, Cedar Hill, Mansfield, Fort Worth, and Watauga) in the Dallas metroplex.

Newman is a safe-haven for students prioritizing safety, nurture, care, discipline, and character building. It is a rigorous, college-prep, STEAM school with an emphasis in fine arts, athletics, whole-child approach, multiculturalism, international studies, leadership training, and innovation in teaching and learning.

Newman has a less than 1% drop out rate, 97% attendance rate, 98% graduation rate, a "B" rating in 2021-2022 and extraordinary student academic success in 2022-2023 based on state assessment data.



# DEMOGRAPHICS

<b>Sub-population</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
African American	1,277	44.40%
Hispanic	890	31.00%
White	453	15.80%
American Indian	5	0.20%
Asian	149	5.20%
Pacific Islander	4	0.10%
Two or more races	96	3.30%
Female	1,501	52.20%
Male	1,373	47.80%
Economically Disadvantaged	1,710	59.50%
Non-Educationally Disadvantaged	1,164	40.50%
Special Education	160	5.6%
Section 504 Students	126	4.40%
EB Students/EL	390	13.60%



# NEWMAN VALUES

## OUR STRENGTHS ARE OUR VALUES

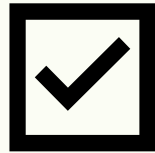
- **Integrity**
- **Excellence**
- **Commitment**
- **Servant Leadership**



Newman values an individual not for the color of his/her skin but for the content of his/her character.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## **COLLEGE, CAREER, & MILITARY**

**READINESS:** Prepare students for post-secondary success according to job-market demands & industry needs of Arkansas through effective virtual school practices



## **SUPPORT AND TRAINING:**

Support and Equip Principals, Teachers and Learning Coaches for Continuous Improvement in delivery of effective virtual schooling



## **SUPPORTS AND INTERVENTIONS:**

Establish an effective and efficient system of instruction utilizing the science of teaching reading, and provide interventions and supports to meet student needs and ensure EACH student succeeds



## AREAS OF STRENGTH

### LEARNERS:

- Experience an intentional focus on learner's well-being
- Engage with curriculum and instruction that emphasize the value of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and abilities, and STEAM
- Have equitable opportunities to realize their learning potential
- Have their diverse needs identified and addressed

### LEADERS:

- Actively engage stakeholders to support their priorities
- Cultivate effective individual and collective leadership
- Maintain institutional structures and processes that support learners/staff
- Use data and input from a variety of sources to make decisions
- Regularly evaluate programs and conditions for improvement

### GOVERNING AUTHORITY:

- Demonstrate a commitment to learners
- Collaborate with leaders to uphold the institution's priorities
- Drive continuous improvement

# ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

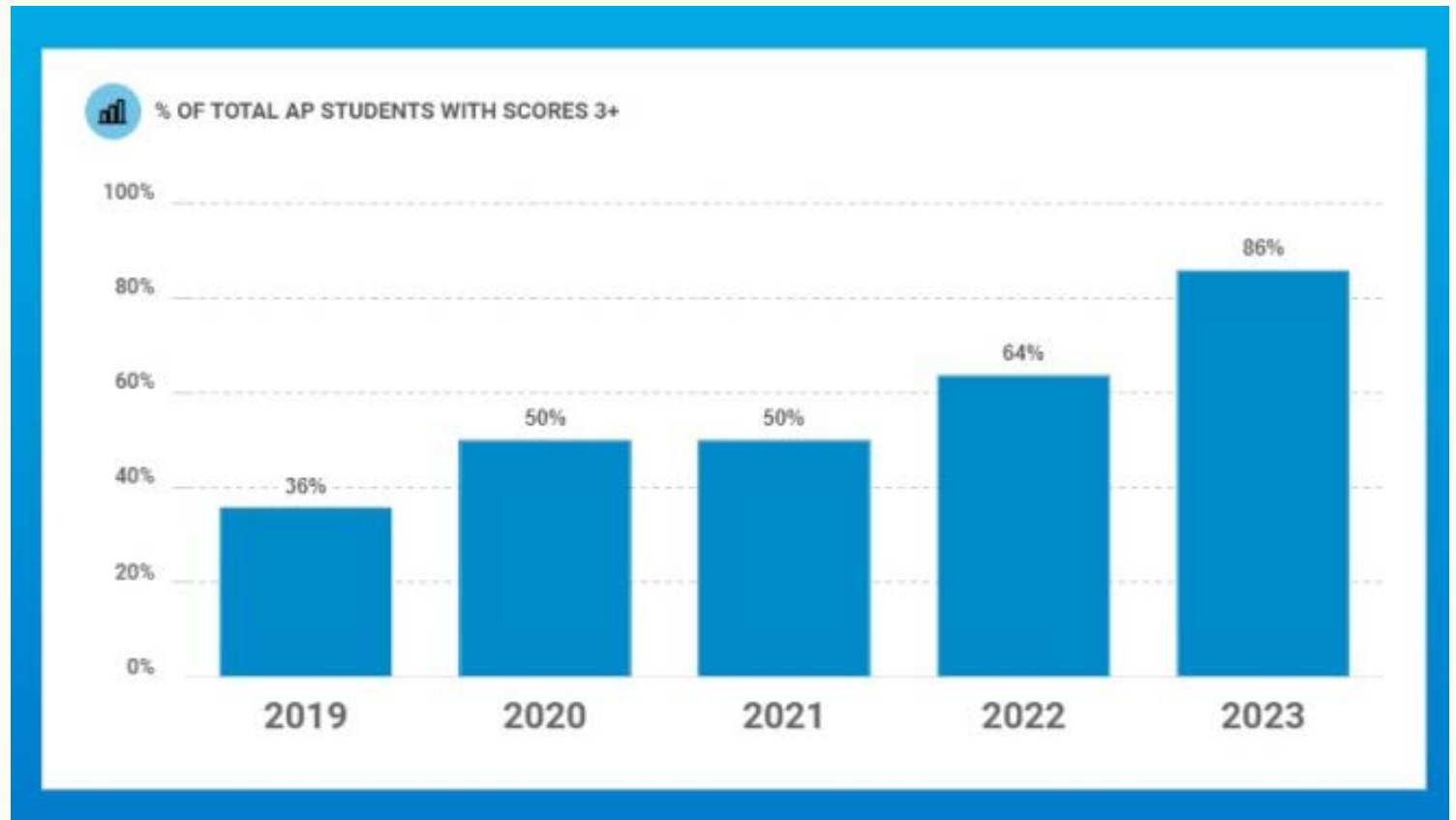
The district met or exceeded state averages for the percentage of students at Approaches and above on all EOC Assessments: Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, & US History

<b>END-OF-COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>NIA PERCENTAGE: APPROACHES AND ABOVE</b>	<b>STATE PERCENTAGE: APPROACHES AND ABOVE</b>
<b>ALGEBRA I</b>	90	78
<b>BIOLOGY</b>	97	89
<b>ENGLISH I</b>	86	71
<b>ENGLISH II</b>	86	74
<b>US HISTORY</b>	95	95



# ADVANCED ACADEMICS

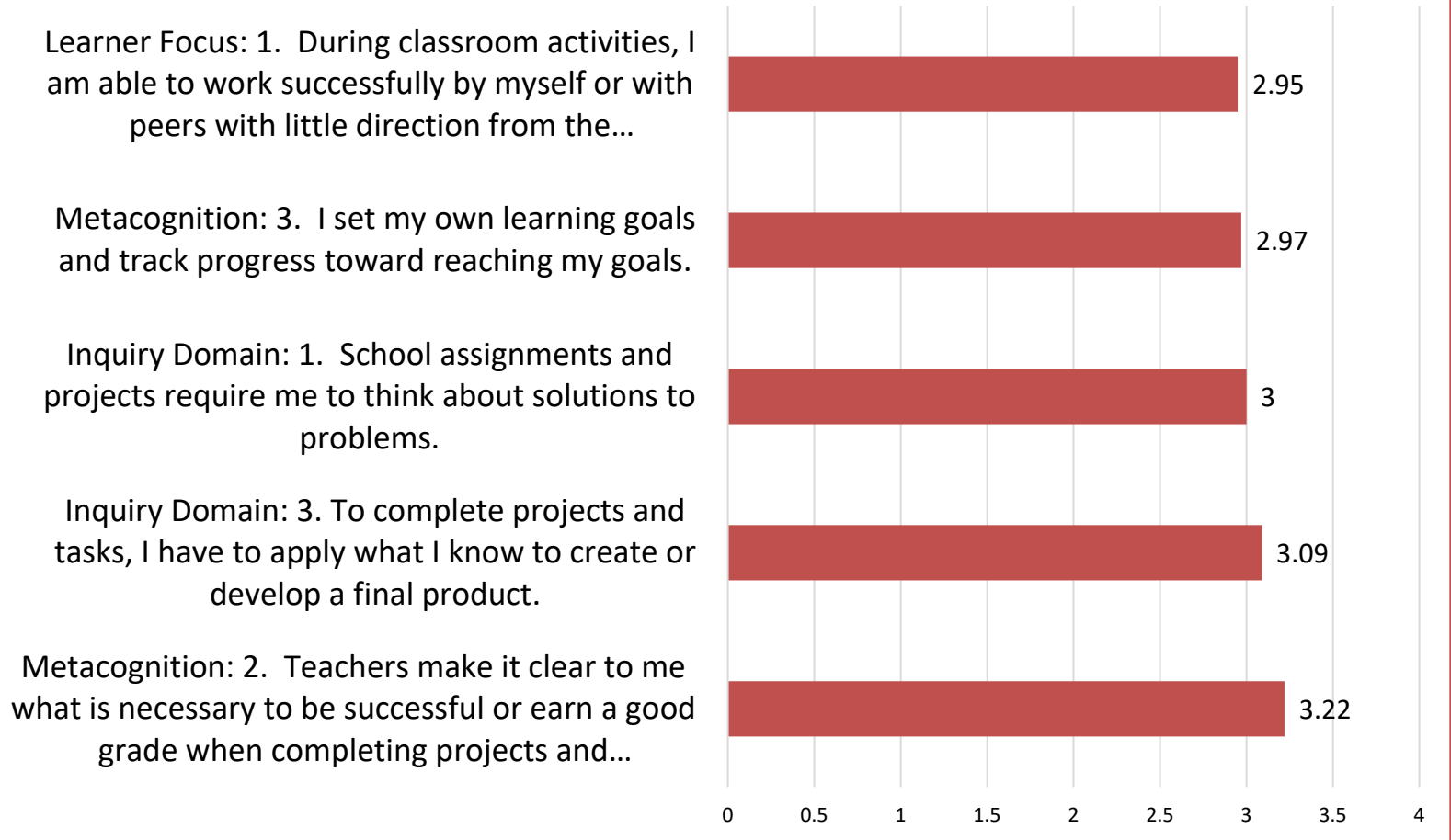
Newman's percentage of students earning a 3 or better in AP English has steadily increased over the last 5 years.





# Newman students shared that they have positive interactions with their teachers in a way that challenges them to think and work with confidence.

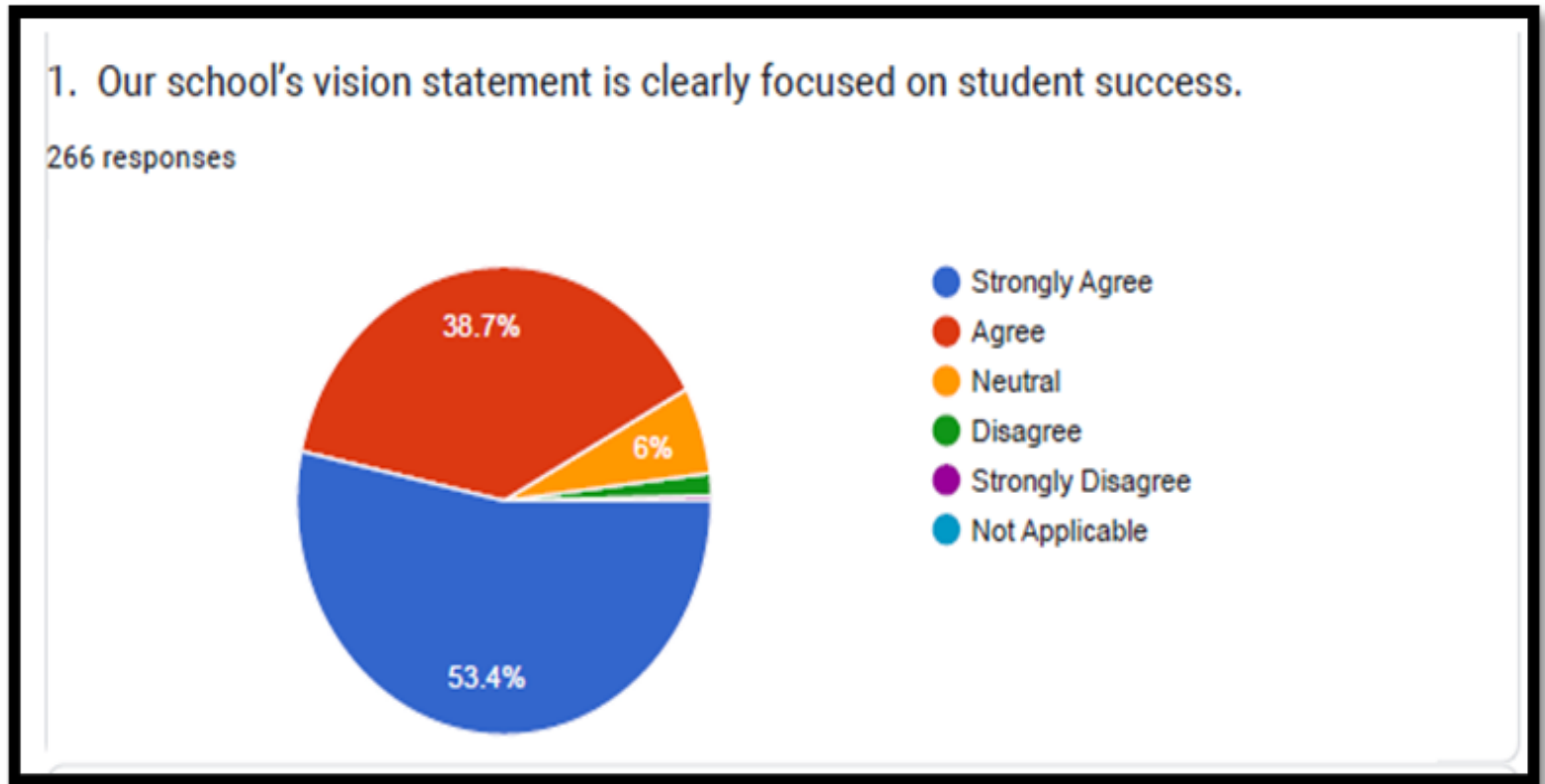
## 5 Highest Rated Responses on Student Survey







# NEWMAN TEACHERS SEE THE VISION IS FOCUSED ON STUDENT SUCCESS





# MEET THE PIPER FAMILY

“We love that Newman is student-focused and Annie is challenged to achieve high educational and behavioral standards. She is in the Gifted & Talented Program. Her favorite day of school is Tuesday, POWWOW, where she has received recognition and rewards for academic and character values achievement.”





# ACCREDITATION STATUS & INDEX OF EDUCATION QUALITY

## ENGAGEMENT REVIEW: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Your Institution's IEQ

**330**

Cognia's IEQ Network Average: 253



### SCORE

### DESCRIPTION

**Below 220**

An IEQ score below 220 indicates that the institution has several Areas for Improvement and should focus their improvement efforts on those areas and the related Standards and/or Assurances. The institution will be required to present evidence of improvement to Cognia within one year through a Progress Monitoring Review. Additional Progress Reports may be required if satisfactory improvement is not achieved.

**220 - 300**

An IEQ in the range of 220-300 suggests the institution has some Areas for Improvement and may include one or more Noteworthy Practices. Institutions must address the Areas for Improvement and provide evidence of actions taken and results to Cognia in a required Progress Report due three years following the review. Additional progress monitoring may be required if satisfactory improvement is not achieved.

**Above 300**

An IEQ above 300 indicates the institution meets Cognia's expectations for accreditation that include one or more Areas for Improvement and may include one or more Noteworthy Practices. Institutions must address the Areas for Improvement and provide evidence of actions taken and results to Cognia in a required Progress Report due three years following the review. Additional progress monitoring may be required if satisfactory progress is not achieved.



# NOTEWORTHY PRACTICES

## ENGAGEMENT REVIEW: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- 
- 1 Newman International Academy demonstrates a commitment to creating and sustaining structures and processes that are focused on the system's guiding principles and learners' well-being. Their philosophy is "Raising Warriors of wisdom, stature, and favor" and the governing authority's policies and decisions ensure an uncompromised commitment to this philosophy and the identified priorities.

Standard 2

Standard 8

- 
- 2 The system leadership shows commitment to using data from various sources to evaluate instructional programs and organizational conditions. Leaders use a formal, systematic process demonstrating skill and insight to make decisions for learners' and staff growth to advance learning.

Standard 24

Standard 28

- 
- 3 The system is committed to creating and sustaining a culture of respect, equity, and inclusion, where learners' diverse academic and non-academic needs are identified and effectively addressed, and the value of diverse cultures and backgrounds is embedded in the learning environment. The vision of NIA resulted from a desire to provide a safe haven for learners that values an individual "not for the color of his/her skin but the content of their character," and all decision-making embodies those values.

Standard 1

Standard 16

Standard 27

---



# **COMMITMENTS**

**Newman Virtual School Arkansas ensures:**

- **Holistic Skill Development**  
(including effective literacy development)
- **Real-World Relevance**
- **Technological Integration**
- **Career Readiness**
- **Individualized Pathways**



**HOW WE MEET NEEDS**

# **THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL MODEL**

**We offer virtual education utilizing these options:**

- **Asynchronous / Remote / Self-Paced**
- **Synchronous / Blended Learning**



**HOW WE MEET NEEDS**

# **VIRTUAL SCHOOL SUPPORTS**

**We offer :**

- **Tutoring**
- **Extra-Curriculars & Clubs**
- **Counseling**
- **Media Services**
- **Drop-In Centers**
- **Student Related Services and Supports**
- **Supports for Parents/Learning Coaches**



## **HOW WE MEET NEEDS**

# **INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS**

- Teachers available to assist students during school hours (8-4pm)
- Students schedule appointments with teachers at convenient times
- Drop-in center locations based on student enrollment numbers
- Teachers work with students and their parents/ counselors to ensure they are setup for success and continuous progress
- Staff monitors student progress and communicates with parents/counselors periodically
- Our school takes frequent measures and provides appropriate accommodations to allow students to be successful
- Periodic performance reports are sent to parents/counselors
- An intense Response to Intervention (RtI) system led by school administration tracks needs, implements interventions, monitors, and adjusts until the need is met





# BY THE NUMBERS

# PROJECTED GROWTH AND ENROLLMENT

School Year	Grade Levels offered	Total projected Student Enrollment for all grades	Faculty projections based on anticipated enrollment	Non-faculty projections based on anticipated enrollment
Year one	6-12	200	8	3
Year two	K-12	400	16	4
Year three	K-12	500	20	5
Year four	K-12	600	24	5
Year five	K-12	700	28	6

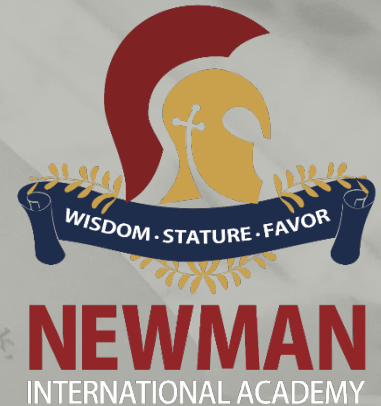


# **OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT**

- **Community Engagement**
  - Networks of homeschoolers, rural support organizations, industry centers, and other educational advocacy groups
- **Recruitment Campaign**
  - Digital campaigns, networking, community outreach based on statistics
- **Staff Recruitment**
  - Identified for hire AR certified teachers in all subject areas
  - Continue to hire based on enrollment

# NEWMAN VIRTUAL ACADEMY

A 13-Year Journey of Continuous Improvement



**Building on a foundation of  
EXCELLENCE  
to bring an excellent  
NEW CHOICE  
to the GREAT STATE OF ARKANSAS**

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
CONSIDERATION**

**CLARIFICATION  
Q&A**



**NEWMAN**  
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY