When financier and philanthropist Isidore Newman founded the Isidore Newman Manual Training School in 1903, he envisioned a superior education for the children of New Orleans and those of the Jewish Children’s Home. He wrote, “For years it has been the desire of my heart to do something for this city and State which have made me what I am. I have my reward in the school.” He hoped to provide skilled, competent, and well-trained labor to do the work that is necessary in a community.

Over the past 116 years, Mr. Newman’s school has developed into one of the nation’s finest college preparatory institutions. Our curriculum has evolved into an academic program which today offers a full range of choices and rewarding challenges. Our student body has grown from an opening enrollment of 125 to a current enrollment of over 1,000 students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Jefferson Building, where all early classes were held, now opens onto a campus of more than 11 acres and 16 buildings interspersed with playgrounds, patios, green spaces, and an athletic playing field.

In our quest to serve Mr. Newman’s vision, we have grown, adapted, evolved, and often taken the lead in education. In 1913, Newman became the first school in the State of Louisiana to earn accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. We offered coeducation before any other school in New Orleans, and we enrolled African-American students before any other local independent school.

As we look to the future, we are enriching our environment by reaching out to students of diverse backgrounds, teaching to different learning styles, offering unparalleled opportunities with technology, and continuing to maintain the relevance of our health and wellness curriculum.

The more we learn about children, the more we have shaped our courses of study to nurture and respond to their abilities and appetites at each stage of their development. The better we understand them, the better we answer the needs of their minds, bodies, and spirits.