



APRIL 20, 2020
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MAJORIS

QUID NOVI

Alaina Hilton is a
Gryphon at Home

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

Facebook Live!
Friday - 3:30 pm

**Tune in at
New Covenant
Schools to see your
tickets drawn for
H&H prizes!**



SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL PARENTS

by Marion Patterson

I thought this would get easier, day by day – that I would adapt quickly to the constant presence of multiple screens in my life, the increased demands for my constant availability, and the sadness of separation from the children. While I learn new tech tricks and find novel ways to communicate each day, it's not becoming natural or comfortable.

I'm listening to what our families are experiencing as the novelty of online school wears away. When they are physically at New Covenant, students in grades 1-4 depend

upon their teachers for so much more than information. Teachers set schedules, assign work with time limits and rewards, provide healthful recreation and breaks, and keep them safe. The teachers are working very hard to offer as much as they can to your students right now, and are busy much of each day preparing, making supplemental videos, and planning engaging lessons. They pray for your students each day. What they can't provide is their constant physical presence and the structure of a school day.

As you begin again on Monday for the final

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WHAT'S NEW?

GRYPHON STRONG 5K Walk/Run – Saturday, May 16

The athletic department is encouraging our school families to get outside and exercise this spring. The 5K challenge offers our young gryphons incentive to train in their own neighborhoods during next month, and commit to walk/run a 5K on May 16th in a safe location. Visit the school's athletic page to find a calendar with a suggested training program. There are three levels of training offered and you may choose a program that best fits your current level of fitness. Please take pictures of your 5K experience on May 16th and share them with Kelli Johnson, who maintains our social media pages (kjohnson@newcovenantschools.org). We can share these moments together. The PDF for our Gryphon Strong 5K training can be found on the athletic page on website at www.newcovenantschools.org under the forms and links tab.

https://newcovenantathletics.org/library/files/newcovenantschoolsva_bigteams_42529/files/Gryphon%20Strong%205K%20Training%20Schedule.pdf

THINK.

LEARN.

LOVE.

LIVE.

5-week stretch of school, consider the strategies below for helping your days go smoothly:

START OVER ON MONDAY with a new schedule.

For grammar school, this might look like a half hour of instructional time followed by a break for outdoor play, and an additional hour for watching loom videos and completing assignments (more time for the older grades!).

INCLUDE SOME “DEAR” TIME (Drop Everything and Read) each day. Simply set your kitchen timer and require children to read silently or look at books until the time’s up. This is something they are all able to do – and are required to do – at school. You can train quiet attention by adding extra minutes each day. Not only is this good for kids; it’s good for parents, too. It was a lifesaver for me when I homeschooled my own children.

OFFER TANGIBLE REWARDS for things you expect children to do without incentives during normal times. We all expect obedience without a payoff, but attention to the teacher and completion of work in this new setting are skills we want to develop. Many children may need the extra boost of a tangible reward to embrace this process. Rewards can be as simple as a sticker or smiley face; they often work better with the youngest children when they are immediate rather than delayed. For example, one sticker today when work is

finished may be more effective than one bigger reward at the end of the week.

SET ASIDE YOUR WORRIES about readiness for the next level. All of our teachers understand how fourth quarter is going. When it’s over, teachers will meet with teachers of the grade level before theirs and after theirs, so that everyone is clear on what was covered. They will be planning in the fall to fill essential gaps and start the year with strong support for students. Each grade’s starting point will likely be a little different than it has been in some years, but that is true for students in every school. Our teachers are committed to setting up every student for success in August.

DO TAKE ADVANTAGE of individual zoom meetings with your teachers. In a 15 minute, one-on-one zoom session, a teacher can provide support and encouragement to young ones who are struggling to complete work and pay attention, make suggestions about your home schedule, and clarify assignments. Feel free to email them to request such a meeting.

So many of you are both working and schooling at home just now - stress is to be expected! We continue to pray that you will be able to focus on what’s good and profitable during these challenging days, and to find ways for your children to survive and thrive.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

If you haven’t completed your 2020-21 enrollment packet, please do so now. This packet allows you to verify your information, select emergency contacts, inform the school of allergies and medications. We cannot assign your child to a class or provide a schedule until this packet is completed. The deadline to complete the packet *has passed*. Thank you for submitting right away. Questions? Please email Linda Simon at lsimon@newcovenantschools.org

Students, do you remember filling out letters for Hands & Hearts before Spring Break? Some of you earned tickets for a prize drawing, and have been waiting a long time to find out if you’ve won! On Friday, you can watch the drawing live

on Facebook to see if you’ve won, and get a peek at the winning T-shirt design. When restrictions are lifted, we’ll find a day and time for New Covenant students to serve our community through the Hands and Hearts project – summer version! **Headmaster Heaton** and **Mrs. Renalds** will conduct an online Assembly through Facebook live on **Friday, April 24 at 3:30 pm**. We’ll be drawing names for prizes that were earned during our Hands & Hearts project. ***Be watching your email for instructions and a link to enter your name for specific prizes!***

Scott McCurley, Academic Dean for the School of Rhetoric, joined in a Zoom conference call last week hosted by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS). Over a dozen division heads from North Cross, VES, Miller

School, The Steward School and others gathered to share and discuss the challenges we are facing with the Covid-19 crisis.

That VAIS would initiate and facilitate such a meeting is another demonstration of why New Covenant staff worked so hard for two years to move our accreditation to this group. The meeting was called so that we could compare notes, successes and failures, and it overwhelmingly affirmed that the steps we have taken online for our students meet or exceed those taken by independent schools around the commonwealth.

We want you to be encouraged by this, even when you feel the burden of difficulties in your experience. We are here to support you and your children; please let us know if there is something more we can do.

ACADEMIC HONORS FOR 3RD QUARTER 2019-2020

SCHOOLS OF RHETORIC AND DIALECTIC

The Headmaster's List

summa cum laude

Emily Brophy, 12	Sofi Forshey, 12	Sarah Hankins, 12	Olivia Kalafian, 12
David Kline, 12	Lausyn McBride, 12	Michael Minnick, 12	Charity Simon, 12
Thomas VanVoorhis, 12	Will VanVoorhis, 12	Hannah Craven, 11	Tessa Hackenbracht, 11
Brandon Hostetler, 11	Elizabeth Kittrell, 11	Ann Claire Terrell, 11	Madeline Duncan, 10
Dalton Foster, 10	Saige Knapton, 10	Brie Olson, 10	Ellie Walker, 10
Jael Brenning, 9	Lydia Craven, 9	Jenna Hackenbracht, 9	Victoria Johnson, 9

The Dean's List

magna cum laude

Thea Eshleman, 12	Calvin Hurt, 12	Matthew Ivins, 12	Charlie Nelson, 12
Carter Newsome, 12	Roman Seay, 12	Wagner Spiva, 12	Kaylor Turner, 12
Titus Brenning, 11	Stone Clark, 11	Ellen Anne Deneen, 11	Konner Johnson, 11
Christopher Matney, 11	Elizabeth Olmsted, 11	Phoebe Prillaman, 11	Virginia Robert, 11
Taylor Toone, 11	Evan Wilson, 11	Rylee Ames, 10	Michael Marotta, 10
Rebekah Bryant, 9	Caleb Eaton, 9	Helene Kimlick, 9	Nate Kirshberger, 9
Will Kittrell, 9	Hannah LaGrone, 9	Kaden Newsome, 9	Abigail Place, 9
Waylon Spiva, 9	Jackson Taylor, 9	Jude Vollmer, 9	

cum laude

Tyler Dixon, 12	Kayla Haley, 12	Brynn Katany, 12	Molly Pickard, 12
Kollin Rucker, 12	Eva Sayles, 12	Carmen Horne, 11	David Keenan, 11
Janna Renalds, 11	Natalie Rogers, 11	Cayli Snipes, 11	Izabel Zealand, 11
Makenzy Bates, 10	Anna Burton, 10	Gioia Calabretta, 10	Skylar McCurley, 10
Josie Scruggs, 10	Elizabeth Matney, 9		

MIDDLE SCHOOL

summa cum laude

Nicole Clark, 8	Adora Hampton, 8	Saria Hostetler, 8	Olivia Kidd, 8
Caleb McCormick, 8	Mary Glenn Morse, 8	Virginia Morse, 8	Elizabeth Niedzialek, 8
Andrew Nye, 8	Andrew Rogers, 8	James Brophy, 7	John Brophy, 7
Corey Hackenbracht, 7	Jenna Ng, 7	David Tolle, 7	Brey Welch, 7

magna cum laude

Augustus Knebel, 8	Sarah Robert, 8	Robert Sorenson, 8	Ava Zealand, 8
Cora Helm, 7	Mary Kate Place, 7	Jocelyn Walker, 7	

cum laude

Micah Cortez, 8	Abby Rose, 8	Charlotte Seay, 8	Brielle Walker, 8
Owen Widzisz, 8	Lizzie Bryant, 7	James Deyo, 7	Jack Duncan, 7
Grace Hendricksen, 7	Graham Kowalski, 7	Reese Murphy, 7	Declund Stevenson, 7