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QUID NOVI

The Class of 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

FIRST CLASS

by John Heaton, Headmaster

It isn't fair and it isn't their fault. This class, however, carries a unique distinction among classes. They began their journey into grammar school in the fall of 2007 just as the country was showing the first symptoms of the Great Recession that would erupt in their first grade year. Back then the stock market fell a mere 777 points. Barack Obama defeated Joe Biden for the Democratic nomination, and later, as President, with unemployment topping 7.3%, asked for 178 billion dollars in a stimulus package to get the economy moving again. In the midst of hardship the country held its breath, and our parents resolutely kept paying tuition.

This spring our seniors will end their high school careers at home under shelter-in-place

restrictions still waiting to see if a graduation ceremony can be scheduled. The stock market has dropped over 8,000 points and the subsequent bailout - well, that's topped 3 trillion dollars with more than 25,000,000 unemployed, and counting. Joe Biden is the Democratic nominee for President. Meanwhile, the country has seemingly lost its breath.

These students have already lived through remarkable times. This spring, however, the losses mounted as they missed the last quarter of their senior year, an entire season of lacrosse, soccer, track, and tennis, senior thesis defense days, which are a huge celebration of achievement, study abroad trips, and even their senior trip to New York City - all cancelled. These

see Seniors, pg. 10

WHAT'S NEW?

For the first time ever seniors will present and defend their senior thesis projects online. The covid-19 outbreak began just as they were preparing for "thesis day" at New Covenant. In normal circumstances we stop school for two days and the entire high school, parents, and friends flood the building for the great event during which multiple presentations are made simultaneously around the building. Given the difficulties we have encountered this spring, the Academic Dean, Scott McCurley, permitted the students to submit their papers for archive with an optional online defense using Zoom. Happily, many students signed up to present, and those defenses will begin on Thursday and Friday, April 30-May 1.

SENIOR THESIS GOES ONLINE

PORTRAIT OF THE GRADUATE

A New Covenant Schools graduate is:

A LOVER of truth, goodness
and beauty.

ELOQUENT with the
written and spoken word

INTELLECTUALLY
VIGOROUS, seeking to
know God, self and the world

PRUDENT in speech and
action

GENEROUS and rich in
good works

SPIRITUALLY STRONG,
looking to God in faith, hope
and love.

ENCOUNTERS SUCCESS
with humility and failure with
confidence

Learn more about the
Portrait of the Graduate at
www.newcovenantschools.org/portraitofthegraduate

MEET THE CLASS

The members of the class of 2020 are listed here with a brief record of their involvements and achievements. Numbers indicate years of high school participation



MATTHEW ANDERSON

Entered New Covenant: Grade 3

Co-curricular: Basketball 4

Recognition: Basketball Defense Award | Yearbook Staff 2

Senior Thesis: "Simplicity in Apple"

EMILY DIANA BROPHY

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-curricular: Panache Drama 4 | Gryphon's

Quill Editor 3 | Mexico Missions Trip 2 | Tennis 1 | Engineering
Competition 1 | American Mathematics Competition 1 | Volleyball

Team Manager 1 | Peer Tutor 1

Recognition: National Latin Exam *maxima cum laude* | National Latin
Exam *cum laude*

Senior Thesis: "#ThoughtsAndPrayers: The New American Serial Killer"



TYLER DIXON

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-curricular: Soccer 4 | American Mathematics Competition 1 |
Engineering Competition 2 |

Recognition: Science Challenge 3rd Place

Senior Thesis: "Does Higher Education Have a Liberal Bias?"

ALTHEA G. ESHLEMAN

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-curricular: Gryphon's Quill editor 3 | Panache Drama 3

Recognition: Poetry Recital Finalist 3

Senior Thesis: "Disposable Planet: The Consumer Culture and How
We are Destroying the Planet"



SOFIA LYNNE FORSHEY

Entered New Covenant: Grade 8

Co-curricular: Tennis 4 | Panache Drama 4 | Gryphon's Quill Editor 3 |
Peer Tutor 2 | Work Study Aide 1

Recognition: National Latin Exam *magna cum laude* | Poetry Recital
Finalist 3 | Poetry Recital Rhetoric Winner 1 | Best Actress Award |

Gryphon's Quill Editor-in-Chief | House Historian

Senior Thesis: "Don't Forget to Like and Subscribe: The New American
Dream"

BAILEY FOSTER

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-curricular: Basketball 4 | Volleyball 4 | Track and Field 1 | Tennis 1
| American Mathematics Competition 1 | Peer Tutor 2 |

Work Study 1

Recognition: All-Conference, Offense and 360 Award Basketball

Senior Thesis: "The Benefits of Being a High School Athlete"



H O N O R A R I A



WILLIAM LOREN GILLESPIE
Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Basketball 3 | Yearbook Staff 2
Senior Thesis: "The Illegal Collections of NSA Data"

Recognition: Gryphon Sportsmanship Award Volleyball & Basketball | Captain, Volleyball | All Conference Track and Field | Art Fair 3rd Place
Senior Thesis: "The Biomedical Ethics of Human Cloning"

KAYLA HALEY

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Volleyball 4 | Basketball 4 | Soccer 4 | Track and Field 2 | House Council 1 |



SARAH ROSE HANKINS
Entered New Covenant: Grade 8
Co-curricular: *Panache* Drama 4 | Gryphon's Quill editor 2 | Tennis 1 | Mexico Missions Trip 1 | Peer Tutor 1
Recognition: National Latin Exam *Magna Cum Laude* | Art Fair 3rd Place
Senior Thesis: "The Never-Ending Story: Explaining the Monomyth"

CAROLINA CLAIRE HARRIS

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Tennis 3 | Volleyball 1 | Soccer 1 | Work Study Aide 1
Senior Thesis: "Making Abortion Rare"



ETHAN HARTLESS
Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Soccer 4
Recognition: All-Tournament Team & All-Conference Soccer

LAURA MARIE HICKS

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Volleyball 4 | Tennis 2 | Mexico Missions Trip 1 | Work Study Aide 1
Recognition: Co-Captain, MVP & Offensive Award Volleyball
Senior Thesis: "Opioid Crisis"



CALVIN HURT
Entered New Covenant: Grade 5
Co-curricular: Soccer 4 | Lacrosse 4 | Basketball 2 | House Council 1 | Engineering Competition 1 | American Mathematics Competition 1 | *Panche* Drama 1
Recognition: Sportsmanship Award, Co-captain Soccer | Offensive Award Lacrosse 2 | Vice-President of House Council | Yearbook Staff 1
Senior Thesis: "Howard Zinn's Progressive Revisionism and How it is Tainting the Beauty of America"

2020 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Anderson University (1)
Auburn University (1)
Boyce College (1)
Bridgewater (1)
Christopher Newport U (1)
East Carolina Univ (1)
Elon University (1)
Florida Atlantic Univ (1)
Grove City College (1)
Liberty University (10)
Messiah College (1)
Radford (2)
Randolph College (3)
Samford University (1)
Sweet Briar College (1)
University of Alabama (1)
University of Lynchburg (5)
University of Maine (1)
University of Virginia (1)
Virginia Tech (4)

CLASS OF 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

Graduating seniors-**35**
Men-**18**
Women-**17**
Firstborn-**9**
Middle or only children-**2**
Lastborn-**19**
Set of identical twins-**1**
At NCS since kindergarten-**22**
Student athletes-**34**
Thespians-**12**
No. of colleges/universities accepting students-**20**
Honors scholarships-**10**
Value of earned scholarships-**\$671,200**

H O N O R A R I A

MATTHEW IVINS

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Soccer 4 | Track & Field 1 |
Mexico Missions Trip 1 |
Recognition: National Latin Exam *cum laude* | Art Fair 3rd Place | All Conference
& Co-captain Soccer | House Council
Senior Thesis: "An Argument Against the
Common Modern Worldview: Scientism"



MICHAEL MINNICK

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Soccer 4 | Basketball 2 |
House Council 2 | Engineering Competition
2 | American Math Competition 3
Recognition: Co-captain, MVP,
Sportsmanship Award, Golden Boot, All-
Conference & All-State Soccer | President
of House Council 1 | Yearbook Staff 1
Senior Thesis: "Addressing the Healthcare Crisis with Free
Market Principles: An Argument Against Universal Healthcare"



OLIVIA ALICE KALAFIAN



Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: *Panache* Drama 4 | Tennis 3
| Peer Tutor 3 | Engineering Competition
2 | American Mathematics Competition 1 |
Work Study Aid 1 | Recognition: Yearbook
Editor-in-Chief 2 | District Chorus 2 | State
Chorus | Latin Award | MVP Tennis |
House Historian 2 | Art Fair 1st Place 3 |

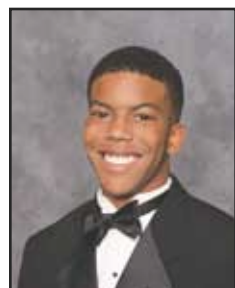
Art Fair 2nd Place 3 | Poetry Recital Class Winner 2
Senior Thesis: "Transcendent Expression: A Holistic Approach to
Grief in a Modern Society"

BRYNN KATANY

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Basketball 4 |
Recognition: MVP Basketball 2 |
All-Conference Basketball
Senior Thesis: "Tech Effects: The Hidden
Expense"



DAVID KLINE



Entered New Covenant: Grade 7
Co-curricular: Basketball 3 | Track & Field 2
| Engineering Competition 1
Recognition: MVP Track & Field
Senior Thesis: "Gene Therapy: The Envoy of
Medical Genetic Modification"

LAUSYN MCBRIDE

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Tennis 4 | Basketball 1 |
Volleyball 1 | House Council 2 | American
Mathematics Competition 1 | Engineering
Competition 2 | Gryphon's Quill Editor
Recognition: Most Improved Award Tennis
| Gryphon Award Tennis 2 | Tennis Team
Captain 2 | National Latin Exam *magna*



cum laude | Poetry Recital Finalist 4
Senior Thesis: "The Prosperity Gospel: Genie in a Bottle vs. the
One True God"

CHARLOTTE NELSON



Entered New Covenant: Grade 10
Co-curricular: *Panache* Drama 2 |
Yearbook Staff 1
Senior Thesis: "Living the Good Life:
Shakespeare and Happiness"

CARTER NEWSOME

Entered New
Covenant: Grade 9
Co-curricular: Soccer 4 | Basketball 4
Recognition: Co-captain Basketball 2 |
Golden Boot Soccer | Art Fair 1st Place |
Engineering Competition 2 |
American Mathematics Competition 2
Senior Thesis: "A Defense to Synthesize an
Old Earth and Genesis One"



NATHAN OPPENHEIMER



Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Basketball 4 | Cross Country
4 | Lacrosse 2 | Mexico Missions Trip 2 |
Recognition: MVP Basketball, Cross
Country | Yearbook Staff 1
Senior Thesis: "Dyslexia Advantages and
Disadvantages"

MOLLY MARIE PICKARD

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Volleyball 4 | Basketball
Team Manager 2 | Tennis 2 | Gryphon's
Quill Editor 2 | *Panache* Drama 1 |
Recognition: National Latin Exam *magna*
cum laude | Poetry Recital Finalist 1
Senior Thesis: "Like a Girl: The Role of a
Christian Woman"



H O N O R A R I A



KOLLIN REGINALD RUCKER
Entered New Covenant: Grade 7
Co-curricular: Basketball 4 | Lacrosse 1 |
Track & Field 1 | *Panache* Drama 1
Recognition: Co-captain & Sportsmanship
Award Basketball | Yearbook Staff 2
Senior Thesis: "Legal Refereeing:
The Necessity of Organizational
Whistleblowing"



CHARITY SIMON
Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Track & Field 3 | Tennis 3 |
Basketball 4 | Volleyball 1 | Gryphon's
Quill Editor 1 | Recognition: Sportsmanship
Award Basketball, Gryphon Award
Basketball & Track & Field | All-Conference
Track & Field, 2nd Team All Conference,
Tennis | Co-captain Tennis 2 | MVP Tennis 2
Senior Thesis: "The Importance of Reaching the Physically
Disabled: The Church's Role"

GABE SANSONE
Entered New Covenant: Grade 3
Co-curricular: Basketball 3
Recognition: MVP Basketball | Art Fair 2nd
& 3rd Place
Senior Thesis: "An Argument for More
Exercise and Less Technology"



WAGNER SPIVA
Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Soccer 4 | Basketball 3 |
Lacrosse 4
Recognition: Defense Award, All-
Conference & MVP Soccer | Gryphon
Sportsmanship Award Basketball | Science
Challenge 3rd Place
Senior Thesis: "The Methods Concerning
the Consumption and Conservation of Aquatic Resources"



EVA SAYLES
Entered New Covenant: Grade 8
Co-curricular: Soccer 4 | Track & Field 2 |
Tennis 2
Recognition: Most Improved Tennis |
Most Outstanding, Track & Field
Senior Thesis: "Taking Up Our Cross:
Developing Christian Virtue Through
Suffering"



KAYLOR REBECCA TURNER
Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Volleyball 4 | Soccer 4 | Work
Study Aide 1 | Peer Tutor 1
Recognition: Defense Award, Co-captain &
All-Conference Volleyball | House Council 1
Senior Thesis: "The Importance of Valuing
Rest"

IVY SCHUMACHER
Entered New Covenant: Grade 9
Co-curricular: Soccer 3 | Tennis 1 |
Gryphon's Quill editor 2 | *Panache* Drama 1
Recognition: National Latin Exam *maxima*
cum laude | Art Fair 3rd Place |
House Historian
Senior Thesis: "Defending the Art in
Animation"



ROBERT CLAYTON UMBARGER
Entered New Covenant: Grade 1
Co-curricular: Soccer 3 | Lacrosse 2 |
Basketball 1 | Track & Field 1
Senior Thesis: "The Collapse of Public
School Education"



ROMAN SEAY
Entered New Covenant: Grade 2
Co-curricular: Cross Country 4 | Basketball
3 | Track and Field 3 | *Panache* Drama 3
| Mexico Missions Trip 3 | Recognition:
Science Challenge 2nd Place | Art Fair 3rd
Place | Yearbook Staff 1 | Senior Thesis:
"Hunting as an Ethical Sport"



**THOMAS
VANVOORHIS**
Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Cross Country 4 | Basketball
1 | Engineering Competition 1 | American
Mathematics Competition 2
Recognition: Science Challenge 2nd Place |
National Latin Exam *magna cum laude*
Senior Thesis: "The Decline of the Music
Industry"

H O N O R A R I A



WILLIAM VANVOORHIS

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Cross Country 4 |
Basketball 3 | Track and Field 2 | American
Mathematics Competition | Engineering
Competition 2 | House Council
Recognition: Gryphon Award & Most
Improved Cross Country | Science
Challenge 2nd Place Team | National Latin

Award *maxima cum laude* | Yearbook Staff 1

Senior Thesis: "Should College Athletes Be Paid?"

BRADY WILSON

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten
Co-curricular: Soccer 4 | Basketball 4 |
Tennis 1 Recognition: MVP Soccer | Co-
Captain Soccer, Basketball | Most Improved
Tennis
Senior Thesis: "Why the NBA Should
Change its Eligibility Rule"



QUOTABLE

"I have been taught for my entire career at New Covenant that the true and good and beautiful things are the things worth striving for."

— Emily Brophy



"I will be leaving with an outstanding education, an appreciation for the true and beautiful, and memories and friendships that I will cherish."

— Michael Minnick

"Learning is your choice, not anyone else's. Teachers present material and are willing to guide you to a greater understanding of your courses, but you are the one who has to make the decision to learn." — Sarah Hankins



"Instead of turning to the newest fad in modern curriculum, New Covenant has pointed me towards the good, the true and the beautiful that history has to offer." — Lausyn McBride

H O N O R A R I A

SENIOR THESIS DEFENSE

by Jeremiah Forshey

During this quarantine my family has been watching the Harry Potter movies. Some of our favorite scenes are the Defense Against the Dark Arts classes, where students learn how to put their theoretical coursework to practical use defending themselves. When the simpering Professor Umbridge replaces that with textbook copying, the students (and the viewers!) all realize that the class has missed its purpose.

It reminded me of Senior Thesis. For years at New Covenant students have been building skills, learning concepts, and having their affections formed by encounters with truth and beauty. In their senior year, they have a chance to put those logical and rhetorical skills to practical use. They choose a topic that interests them, learn about it, and craft an argument that seeks to persuade the community to think as they have learned to do. They must call upon years of coursework to ward against fallacy and disarm sophistry. Like students at Hogwarts, they are seeing their work through to its natural end: not just grades on a transcript, but the ability to defend what is worthy.

So far our seniors have accomplished those aims of rhetoric in their work. They have read eight or more sources on their topic, written a draft of fifteen pages, responded to comments and challenges from two mentors, and revised their essay to a final draft of fifteen to twenty pages. Their arguments have been revised and reworked until they have been judged “ready for defense” by their mentors. All that

remains is the presentation and defense: when students stand up in front of the community, make their case, and defend their claim.

Sadly, it will not be possible this year for the community to come together to hear their arguments, question their thinking, and ultimately celebrate their work. But “though much is taken, much abides.” The seniors were given the

option of continuing to a digital defense, conducted over Zoom (the platform we use for online teaching), if they felt comfortable doing that. This was presented without pressure, understanding that some lack reliable technology, some are at their limit managing classes online without the usual support structures in place, and some families are in situations where one more stressor right now is just more than they can handle. All our seniors have learned much and grown much in this project. They have

produced work of which they can be proud, and which will—as we have been told countless times by alumni—be excellent preparation for college writing

But I want to celebrate the dedication of those fifteen seniors who, given the option, elected to defend their theses online. The natural end of rhetoric is persuasion toward the good, and these are students who felt so compelled toward that natural end that they are pursuing it even when they’re not required to, even when they must overcome barriers of technology and unfamiliarity, and what surely must be the most epic case of senioritis ever to afflict a nation of graduating high-schoolers.

“The natural end of rhetoric is persuasion toward the good...”

EARNED SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE CLASS OF 2020

Sofi Forshey - Eastern Mennonite University-Honors Scholarship

Olivia Kalafian - Messiah University-Provost's Scholarship

Brynn Katany - High Point University-Presidential Scholarship & Leadership Fellows Program, Bridgewater College-McKinney Scholarship

David Kline - Radford University-Highlander Distinction Scholarship, University of Lynchburg-Hopwood Scholarship,

Randolph College-LEAP Award

Lausyn McBride - University of Lynchburg-Hopwood Scholarship

Michael Minnick - Liberty University-Academic Scholarship & High Achievers, University of Lynchburg-Hopwood Scholarship & Sigler Academic Scholarships

Kayla Hayley - Samford University Marion Scholar, University of Lynchburg-Founders Scholarship

The class of 2020 has earned \$906,200 in Merit Scholarships. Since 1996 New Covenant students have earned over \$13,640,800.

NEW COVENANT schools

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SENIORS, *continued from pg. 1*

students have learned the hard lesson that life is very unpredictable.

Forgetting about the messy world for a moment, we should remember the other remarkable lessons our students tell us they've learned, most of which did not come from a textbook. **Kaylor Turner** notes that "at New Covenant, I have learned the value of community." She and more than 20 of her classmates have been working on it for 13 years! **Laura Hicks** concurs, "Being around the same people for 13 years taught me how important forgiveness is." I learned "to forgive the people around me because falling out with someone is not worth losing a friendship you've had for so long."

Community. Relationships. Learning to love one another - those are life-long commitments that mark growth and maturity. These, with the virtues we extol in our Portrait of the Graduate, are experienced daily in our halls and classrooms. "When I first came here [in 8th grade] all I knew about these principles was what was on the banner in the lobby," says **Sofi Forshey**. "It didn't occur to me to ponder those questions till later in high school. In more and more of my

classes the banner became less of a marketing statement and more of a set of ideas that pervaded all of my classes and interactions with peers and staff...I was surrounded in them."

It is perhaps a teacher's greatest joy and accomplishment, however, when a student no longer sees school as a set of tests for which he or she must prepare, but views learning as a life-long pursuit. In the eighth grade **Sarah Hankins** moved with her family from a small community in New York. As she approaches graduation she reflects "that learning is my choice, not anyone else's. You will only really learn when you have the desire and willingness to do so. This kind of learning doesn't end when you graduate high school, because if you are seeking wisdom through your studies, you will have a passion for knowledge your entire life."

The virtues cultivated in our students from their years of childhood now to adulthood will sustain them no matter what life brings. We send these young people to the next chapter of their lives with deep affection and great hope for their continued success wherever their paths may lead them.

QUID NOVI is mailed free of charge seven times annually to all who wish to receive it. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please call (434) 847-8313, or send an email to development@newcovenantschools.org with your name, current mailing address, and the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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EX OFFICIO

Rev'd John Heaton

Rev'd Rodney Longmire

MISSION STATEMENT

New Covenant Schools is an educational community serving families of Central Virginia, providing an exceptional education in a classical curriculum within the framework of historic Christianity, furnishing the student with the tools of education and the inspiration to be a life-long learner.

Annual Fund		General Scholarship		Foundation		Hands & Hearts	
Goal	\$150,000	Goal	\$10,000	Goal	\$200,000	Goal	\$40,000
Total	\$77,000	Total	\$15,0287	Total	\$208,743	Total	\$26,090