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THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

THE CLASS OF 2021
AT CONVOCATION ON
AUGUST 16, 2020

NEW COVENANT WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

John Heaton, Headmaster

Several new faces will greet students in their classrooms as they return to school this week. This summer two of our veteran grammar school instructors, Mrs. Sweeney and Miss Jackson, left New Covenant for new endeavors. We begged them both to stay, but the decision was theirs. We are sad to see them go.

They will be succeeded by two familiar



faces you already know. **Kelli Johnson**, who has served New Covenant as staff substitute, theater assistant, and as manager of the schools' social media, moves to fourth grade.

Mrs. Johnson has been at New Covenant since her son, **Konnor**, was in kindergarten. This year, he is a senior. His sister,

Victoria, is a sophomore. Mrs. Johnson attended VT and began her studies in architecture. She eventually changed her major and obtained a degree in Early Childhood Development.

Sara Fritz was teaching in New Covenant's Grammar School more than twenty years ago as part of the early faculty. She married **Chris Fritz** and took a long leave of absence to raise three children, who are now nearly grown. Her youngest, **Emma**, rises to 8th grade this year. Mrs.



Fritz holds a master's degree in Early Childhood Curriculum and Instruction from University of Lynchburg. She has been seen around New Covenant most recently as a part-time assistant



WHAT'S NEW?

New Covenant Schools turns 30 this year, and while we still feel like the new school, we're not really very new at all. Founded in 1991 with just 16 students and a few teachers, New Covenant began its work in the humble environs of a small church in Forest near 811 and 460. You may not have ever heard the full story, but now you can. Headmaster John Heaton shared part of the 30-year odyssey at this year's Convocation, held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church on Sunday, August 16. You can listen to the story which is posted on our website's front page. Scroll down and look for 30-year icon shown at the right.

THINK.

LEARN.

LOVE.

LIVE.

in the library. Her new assignment will be in grade 4.



Melissa Bailey joins our faculty this year to teach our youngest students in music. She will also work with the choirs in middle school and rhetoric. She holds a BS in music education and an MS in counseling. She comes to New Covenant with two daughters, Whitney and Claire rising to fifth and first grades respectively.

Our middle school faculty welcomes Jonathan Hart (NCS class of 2014) to teach Latin and English grammar. In addition to being a New Covenant alumnus, he is married to **Lena Eshleman Hart (class of 2016)**. They have a new baby, **Henry**, who is nine months old. Jonathan holds a BA and an MA in English Literature from Liberty University, where he also studied German and music theater.



ET CETERA

A HUGE VOLUNTEER EFFORT New Covenant thanks **Jason Phelps (Isaac-1st)** for his generous contribution of volunteer time last week. Mr. Phelps is a computer software writer with Cysco Systems, but he spent more than 40 hours last week evaluating and troubleshooting every computer in our building. With many laptops coming and going, it was a big job to evaluate each one and to make sure that after being on-line last spring, they were serviced and ready for classroom use again.

Mr. Phelps is uniquely qualified for such a job. His first year out of college he was working for our computer vendor, **Computer Exchange**, and was on the team that designed the first system for New Covenant in 2002. He was on campus routinely in those days and serviced our servers and IT infrastructure.

Now, as a parent, we still call him occasionally to bail us out of problems, but nothing compares to the time he donated as the new school year got underway. We thank his employer whose policy encourages staff to donate volunteer hours each year. This was over the top, and assures our faculty members that their computer tools are working.

That said, Mr. Phelps will return to his regular job this week, and **New Covenant is now searching for a part-time IT person to be on campus a couple of days each week to meet ongoing needs. If you or someone you know is looking for part-time work and has skill in this area, New Covenant would like to contact them. This might be a semi-retired individual, or perhaps someone still in college. It is not a full-time position, and flexibility in schedules will be needed. To apply, please contact Andrea Adams at aadams@newcovenantschools.org and ask for a staff application (not online).**

Thank you, again, Mr. Phelps. We appreciate your assistance to the school.

MEET YOUR TEACHER

You and your children can meet your teacher and bring personal school supplies to the classroom on the following schedule:

- PreK and Grammar School will be held on **Monday, August 17, from 3:30-6:30 pm**. Appointments must be made through Sign-up genius.
- Middle School will be held on **Tuesday, August 18th from 3:30-6:30 pm**. Appointments must be made through Sign-up Genius.

Students unable to attend Meet Your Teacher will be assisted on the first day of school. On the first day of school, one parent may walk each Pre-K-4th grade student to the classroom if needed. Parents and students will be required to wear a face covering when entering the building. Our faculty is looking forward to returning to school and being together again. I know that you and your children are, too. We look forward to seeing you this week.

JOIN US FOR TEARS & CHEERS after you drop off students on Wednesday morning. We will meet in the front circle for refreshments and fellowship. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

PLEASE BE REMINDED that all students will need a personal water bottle to be used during the school day.

THE BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC has been postponed to a later date. Please be watching for more information regarding this annual event.

LAKESIDE DRIVE TRAFFIC If you use Lakeside Drive near UL, the bridge at College Lake will be under construction beginning August 19. Give yourself time to make alternate routes if necessary when coming to school.