



Gryphon Garden

# QUID NOVI

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MAJORIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS



## WHY WE LIKE GARDENS

*by John Heaton, Headmaster*

It is very good to be back together in school. As students returned I was excited that **Jessica Simpkins** and other volunteers were able to tend the Gryphon Garden over the summer months. They had hoped the students could return to enjoy harvesting a few things as the school year began. We have not been disappointed. The garden is producing!

All around the campus, too, our Facilities Manager, **Darren Johnson**, has been laying out flowers and cultivating the beds. Many of our students helped during Hands & Hearts, which was held in July because we missed our spring date. You've probably seen the flowers they planted around the parking lots, and appreciated the color they add to our school.

A garden is one of the best places to explore and understand everyday beauty where, as Roger

Scruton notes, "Leisure, learning and beauty come together in a liberating experience of home." Gardening is a recreation universal to human beings. Have you ever wondered why? Even people who don't keep gardens can take pleasure in those created by others. Scruton observes, "A garden is not an open space, like a landscape, but a surrounding space. That which grows and stands in it, grows and stands around the observer."

Everything in a garden is intentional; it is placed there by the grower. It is a place where nature is allowed to be nature, but where nature is also subject to boundaries and limitations the gardener places upon it. Fields and forests have their own beauty, but such beauty is unrestricted. I have often looked out over our farm in Bedford County and thought that certain trees were out of place or needed to be trimmed or even removed. Nature,

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## WHAT'S NEW?

It's great to have strong enrollment this year, which leads to many cars in our pickup lines. In order to alleviate traffic blocking Fleetwood Drive at pickup, please follow these new pattern instructions, beginning Wednesday:

## NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN AT PICKUP STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

### PICKUP LOCATION

If your youngest rider is in 1st – 5th grade, pick up on the chapel side, the second entrance. Everyone else, pick up on the front of the building.

### PICKUP TIMING ON WEDNESDAYS ONLY

Parents of sports team players, grades 7-12, please arrive at school to pick up at 3:15 rather than 3:00 pm.

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

# H O N O R A R I A

## NCS NEW PUBLISHER

New Covenant is pleased to welcome **Mark Hernandez** to the staff. Mark has taken the position of Publisher, and will be responsible for producing the *QUID NOVI* each week, posting it to the website, and making sure that it comes home with your student. In addition, Mark is directing the yearbook staff along with **Jessica Arango** and teaching graphic design to our high school students.

Mark spent more than thirty years in graphic design, recently retiring from a career with the CIA in Washington, DC. He and his wife have moved to Lynchburg to be nearer to their children, and happened to buy a house behind the **Andrades**, a New Covenant family! He wasn't ready to retire fully just yet, so we put him to work just last week. We welcome Mark to the New Covenant community.



## Q&U GOT MARRIED

Students in kindergarten began learning their phonograms, right from the start of school. Each year there is a special ceremony for learning the letters “Q” and “U.” Since these letters always go together in English words, the kindergarten teachers hold a short “wedding ceremony” for “Q” & “U” usually presided over by **Chaplain Morse** or **Headmaster Heaton**.



## THE NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

### DID YOU PAY INCOME TAXES IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA THIS YEAR?

**S**ure. You paid taxes. Even if you received a tax refund, you paid income taxes—a refund means you actually overpaid and received the balance back. The average Virginian pays 5.75% of their salary in income taxes.

What if you could redirect your tax dollars at no cost and help a qualified student attend New Covenant Schools?

You can. The Commonwealth of Virginia offers tax credits in addition to charitable deductions for gifts to the New Covenant

Schools Scholarship Foundation. The good news is that you most likely qualify. You don't have to be wealthy to benefit. You only need to be a taxpayer.

If you would like to understand more about how your tax money can provide a classical education to a deserving student, contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office at [drenalds@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:drenalds@newcovenantschools.org) or call her at 434.847.8313. This is a unique tax opportunity the state provides to its taxpayers and students. Your situation may vary, but nearly everyone benefits from this provision in the tax code.



# E T C E T E R A

## CURRENT FAMILY INFORMATION

This information can be found in digital format by going into your Renweb account and selecting the Directory tab. Within a few weeks, we will also email each family a .pdf copy of the directory. This directory is provided as a service to New Covenant Families and **is not to be used for professional solicitation**. If you would like a printed copy, you can purchase one for \$5.00 by emailing [ncsoffice@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:ncsoffice@newcovenantschools.org). The deadline to order a printed copy is **Friday, September 4**.

## MOMS IN PRAYER

This group invites you to join them as they gather to pray for students and staff of New Covenant Schools starting **Wednesday, September 9 at 9:00 am** in the Grammar School Commons. Contact Mindy Oppenheimer at [josh\\_mindy@yahoo.com](mailto:josh_mindy@yahoo.com) with prayer requests or questions.

## UNIFORM GUIDELINES

These guidelines are available on our website under the My NCS tab. Please make sure you have your child in compliance with our guidelines, taking special notice of the PE uniform guidelines.

## STUDENT PICKUP

While early dismissals are discouraged, if you need to pick up a student from school for an appointment, please send a note indicating the teacher, the time the student should be in the lobby, and the name of the person who is picking them up. This helps us to have your student ready, causing less interruption in the classroom.

## RIDE SHARING

Be sure to update Renweb to register those who are authorized to pick



up your child. If someone comes to retrieve your child and you have not given them permission in Renweb, we will be calling you to confirm the dismissal. To indicate who can pick up your child, log into Renweb, and update transportation information under your Family Demographic Form. Enter those individuals who can transport your child. (If a student is picked up during the school day, they still need a note.)

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT CANCELLED

This event for Grammar School, originally scheduled for **August 31**, has been cancelled. Our teachers were pleased to have been able to speak with parents at Meet-Your-Teacher a few weeks ago.

## SCHOOL PICTURES

TSS Photography will be on campus **Thursday, September 17** to take individual and classroom photos. Please make every effort to have your student on time and do not plan any appointments on this day, if possible. All photo ordering will be done online, and nothing is needed from you in

advance. Senior class, individual, formal and casual portraits will be taken on **Tuesday, September 22**.

## CELL PHONE POLICY REMINDER

Be reminded that the school's policy on cell phone use is very explicit. **Students in middle school are not to bring cell phones to school.** The office does not collect and hold them—they simply stay home. This policy was carefully written to extend to all other devices that connect to or communicate via the internet, make phone calls, or send and receive texts.

## LITTLE GRYPHONS

Siblings of current students who will be 4 years old by the first day of school for the 2021-22 school year, may now apply for our Little Gryphon Preschool Program. This is a small class and fills quickly. Use this link to begin your application today: <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here at New Covenant we understand that good financial stewardship is important to your family and we want to help you in that effort. Join us for coffee and doughnuts on **Wednesday, September 16 at 7:30 am** to hear from Headmaster Heaton and Director of Development Dayna Renalds on how to save money by routing it through the Virginia 529 Savings Plan or gifting to the Scholarship Tax Credit Improvement Program. Be watching your email for an invitation through SignUpGenius. We look forward to sharing with you.



## SUBSTITUTING AT NEW COVENANT

Our protocols for COVID-19 require tightly regulated stay-at-home policies for faculty and staff. Just as parents are asked to keep children at home upon suspicion of symptoms or exposure, so also our staff is being vigilant. This means that the school has already experienced a need for more substitute teachers. This notice is offered to solicit your help.

If you are available during the day and wish to be on call as substitute teacher you can apply for the position and be added to our list of subs. We also need substitutes for many staff positions in food services. If you would like to submit an application please go to the "Join Our Team" page on the school website. Submit a faculty application online, omitting the essays. Someone will contact you right away.



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***A well-gardened campus like New Covenant, complete with courtyards and hidden places, contains surprises of nature from season to season.***



of course, doesn't care about my view of peaks and pastures. The beauty I find in looking over my field and stream is attended with an "out-of-place-ness" of certain features in the landscape.

Not so with gardens. In a garden nature does its thing to be sure, but in gardens we plan, we plant, we sculpt, we create pathways, and we place benches. The end result is that we create an "in-between" space, a blend of unrestrained nature with disciplined limits. It remains wild, but ordered, and by no means reduced to a rigidly human construction. This balance according to Scruton is how we "match our surroundings to ourselves and ourselves to our surroundings." We make an aesthetic judgment, and the word we use to describe a garden is the word "beautiful." A garden does not

merely feed us, it creates a conversation with us; "it is the unavoidable consequence of taking life seriously, and becoming truly conscious of our affairs."

A well-gardened campus like New Covenant, complete with courtyards and hidden places, along with a vegetable patch with fruit trees and berry bushes, contains surprises of nature from season to season. This is no accident. It is as intentional on our part as the math or Latin curriculum. Our students are not only learning about gardening, but some of them are even having chapel services in the midst of grapes and melons! Getting out of the classroom with our students a little more during these summer months is not only a healthy thing for our bodies, but at New Covenant, it is a healthy thing for our souls.

*Roger Scruton, "Beauty, A Very Short Introduction" (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), p. 67-69.*

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EX OFFICIO  
Rev'd John Heaton

### OUR MISSION

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.

NEW COVENANT schools