



Gryphon varsity volleyball team showing winning tenacity.

QUID NOVI

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

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MAJORIS



STEWARDSHIP OF DOLLARS AND CENTS AT NEW COVENANT

by John Heaton, Headmaster

It occurs to me that many in our community may be curious about how the bills get paid at New Covenant. Here's a quick, deep dive.

First, our goal is to cover 100% of the school's operating expenses with tuition dollars. Each year I submit a budget to the board's finance committee, and that committee recommends what tuition will be. This process begins in October, and tuition for the next year is usually determined in time for publication by December. This means that the board is guessing about two things—what our costs will be one year from now, and what our enrollment will be one year from now. That's a bit of guessing, but we take that slight risk because our families have come to appreciate knowing what their tuition

will be before automatic re-enrollment takes place in January.

Sometimes we miss our targets (usually not by much), but when that happens, we may have a slight deficit. For example, next year if our student count is low by even five students, or if costs of paper or electricity increase, we can experience deficits. In most cases we manage it out, but if it is greater than 5% of the budget, we raise funds to make up the difference. Our teachers' salaries make up the single largest expense in our budget, currently 78%.

Our second goal is to fundraise carefully and with full transparency. The needs of our teachers and students are of the highest importance, and they are looked after with care. As you look around

continued on p. 4

WHAT'S NEW?



New Covenant Schools hosts classroom and facility tours each **Thursday at 9:15 am**. This is a great time for prospective families and students to see our campus, meet our headmaster and principal, and become acquainted with our mission and classical education. Any interested person may contact **Linda Simon** in the admissions department at lsimon@newcovenantschools.org or visit the "Schedule a Tour" tab on the website. We are eager to accommodate all who inquire. Reservations are required.

WEEKLY TOURS

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

GRAMMAR SCHOOL POETRY WINNERS



Winners and finalists. L-R: Clover Kershaw, Mason Blankenship, Macy Vollmer, Randy Scott, Zoe Hart, Simeon Durand, Eva Weber, Bertie Seckman.



Kindergarten finalists. L-R: Noelle Deyo, Emmaline Thornhill, Lucy Seckman, Cameron Wertz, Corey Mahle, Mia Miller.

Kindergarten..... **Noelle Deyo:** “We Have a Little Garden” by Beatrix Potter
(Jefferson cup for Kindergarten)

1st grade **Bertie Seckman:** “Envoi” by Algernon Charles Swinburne

2nd grade..... **Macy Vollmer:** “Spots of Greece” by Edward Lear
(Jefferson cup for Lower Grammar)

3rd grade..... **Landis Hoskins:** “The Sound of the Sea” by Henry
Wadsworth Longfellow

4th grade **Judah Durand:** “They Didn’t Think” by Phoebe Cary
(Jefferson cup for Upper Grammar)



Third and fourth grade finalists. L-R: Judah Durand, Alma Parmiter, Idella Olmsted, Virginia Basten, Landis Hoskins, Harper McClure, Evie Jacobs, Emilia Andrade.

THE 2020 PROJECT

This year New Covenant is appealing to our community for upgrades to the **Moomaw Gymnasium**. We demand a lot of this space including lunch, theater productions, and community gatherings. In order to reduce the pressure on this facility, the Workman Field House was constructed in 2013. Still, the Moomaw Gym is the primary space we use for all our community gatherings including kindergarten graduation, poetry recitals, concerts and parent meetings. Now that we are using the chapel as a classroom, Moomaw is being used daily for larger student gatherings where we are able to socially distance.

If you’ve attended an event in the Moomaw Gym, you know it is difficult to hear. Even with an investment in high-quality speakers, amplification does not overcome the acoustical challenges. We propose to improve this with sound clouds and



acoustical barriers. Our good friends at Point Source Audio have provided technical assistance to evaluate the room and have recommended treatments that will significantly improve the quality of sound. Additionally, we will replace the current manual projection screen with an electric screen that will be easier to use. The current screen will be moved to the field house for occasional student presentations there.

The estimated cost for this project is \$30,000. This year, we are dedicating our Annual Fund to making these improvements and would like to begin as soon as the funds are raised. If you would like to contribute to this project, please contact **Dayna Renalds**, our Director of Development for the best way to give. The Annual Fund can accept cash, appreciated stocks, and IRA rollovers when required as minimum distributions from certain individuals. Currently we have raised \$5,450.

E T C E T E R A

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

END OF QUARTER

The School of Rhetoric will have block exams on **Tuesday, October 13**. This marks the end of the 1st quarter for them with a **12:15 pm dismissal time**.

DC TRIP

The DC Trip is postponed, and school will be in session on **October 14-15** with a **NOON dismissal** on **October 15**.

FALL DANCE

The fall dance which was scheduled for **October 24** has been canceled.

PSAT TESTING

Grades 10 & 11 will be undergoing testing of the PSAT on **Thursday, October 29**.

As is our custom, the School of Rhetoric (grades 9-12) will not begin until **9:00 am** that day (the rest of the school starts on time). This is to allow students the opportunity to get a bit more sleep before this testing. If you need to drop off your SOR students at the normal time, we will have supervised study halls.

SOR & MIDDLE

SPORTS PHOTOS

Team photos will be taken on **Monday, October 26 at 3:15 pm** for all athletes in **Grades 7-12**. Athletes must bring their uniforms for the photo session. If you want your student athlete's individual sports photo taken, please email **Beth Mayberry** at bmayberry@newcovenantschools.org.

EVERYONE

LUNCH ORDERING

It's time to order lunch for November. The deadline is **Friday, October 16**, which occurs over Fall Break. Ordering lunch is a monthly task completed by parents. **Even if your child only gets pizza on Friday, you must still add pizza orders monthly. The lunch staff does not do this for you.** Helpful information on the ordering process may be found on the school website by clicking **My NCS>My Meal Plan** and then **View instructions for ordering Lunch**. Remember not to order lunch on days your child has a scheduled field trip or absence. If you have ordered lunch on a day your child will be absent, contact **Mrs. Williamson** and she will apply a credit to your Prepay Lunch Account. Cancellations should be made as early as possible but **no later than 9:00 am** on the day of the order. Questions may be directed to **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

FALL BREAK

This year's fall break will begin at **NOON** on **Thursday, October 15** and goes through **Monday, October 19**. Students return on **Tuesday, October 20**.

SCHOOL PICTURE RETAKES

TSS sent each family an email to view student individual and class portraits. TSS Photography will return to campus on **Thursday, October 22**. If your student was absent on Picture Day, they will have their photo taken then. If your student needs a retake, email **Beth Mayberry** at bmayberry@newcovenantschools.org to have your child put on the picture list.

REPORT CARDS

On **Friday October 23**, report cards will be issued.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

The 2020-21 school year is well underway, but in the admissions department at New Covenant we are already starting to prepare for next year! Applications for the 2021-2022 school year are now being accepted for brand new siblings in all grades. **As a reminder, Pre-K and Kindergarten classes can fill quickly.** Use this link to start your application today: <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR FUNDING EDUCATION

Would you like to know more about the **VA 529 Savings Plan** and the **VA Educational Improvement Tax Credits Scholarship Program**? These programs offer ways for you to pay school tuition with tax-free savings and make a bigger impact with your charitable gift. Join us for breakfast any **Wednesday in October at 7:30 am** to hear from our **Director of Development** on how these programs work. Reserve your spot through this link www.signupgenius.com/go/409084bafab2ca3f58-newcovenant6.



Middle School Cross Country is off to the races!

continued from p. 1

campus, however, few things you see, such as buses, gardens, projectors, computers, and lawn mowers, were purchased with tuition dollars. Most of these things, including our buildings, were paid for from the generous donations provided by our families, friends and benefactors from campaigns specifically designed to pay for them.

Each fall we set a fundraising goal with a specific project in mind. The projects are chosen in consideration of our strategic plan, or through assessment of needed upgrades around the campus. Assuming that there are no operating costs to cover, the funds that we raise pay for the project. (See page 2 for this year's project.) This effort is called the Annual Fund, and every dollar raised benefits our students. Gifts to the Annual Fund are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

Our philosophy is that New Covenant should look like the average church. Healthy church families include the wealthy and the poor and, in many cases, ethnic diversity. There is no family at New Covenant for whom tuition is not a sacrifice—it requires everyone to prioritize their spending. In order to achieve the diversity we desire, we offer robust tuition assistance. Furthermore, we operate The New Covenant Foundation, which provides scholarships to qualified students who begin in kindergarten or first grade, or who transfer to us from a public school in any grade. The Foundation accepts gifts from businesses and individuals, and those who contribute not only deduct those gifts on their federal tax returns, but also receive a 65% tax credit on state income taxes. Thus, for every \$100 contributed, a person gets \$65 off their state income

tax bill. This is a dollar-for-dollar credit on taxes owed, **not** a deduction which lowers adjusted gross income.

SERVICE PROJECT

The final way we raise funds is through a student project called Hands & Hearts. For the last ten years this project has taken place in the spring. Our students recruit sponsors from their families and friends, and together we take on projects in our community. We put the full resources of the school to work—mowers, pressure washers, tractors, chain saws, paint supplies, and even floor strippers, together with more than 500 students and other volunteers. The impact we make each year is astounding, and the organizations we serve beg us to return each year. The funds we raise from this project provide all the supplies we need for the project (although many are donated), and the remainder supports the school. This project continues to help our students understand that charity and service are important at home and in our community.

Raising money responsibly is built on our commitment to operating the school responsibly. Covering costs with tuition and managing our budgets carefully is the way we do this. Our practice of tuition transparency means that all education costs are included, so that parents are not “nickel-and-dimed” with endless additional fees. We fundraise in the same spirit. Each year we make an enthusiastic ask to provide the things tuition does not pay for, but we avoid multiple fundraisers, candy sales, gimmicks, and emotional appeals. You can be confident that when you give to New Covenant your money is used with integrity and directly for the purpose given. The school is fully audited each year and maintains the highest standards in money management.



Headmaster Heaton blessing Daniel Lee's dog at the annual Blessing of the Animals event, held last Friday October 2.

QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASS OF 2021 • Mike Lovell • Kristin Durand • CLASS OF 2022 • Dr. Tim Brophy • Bob Price • Leslie Moeller • Dan Vollmer • Amy Bonebright • Class of 2023 • Kristin Hampton • Darryl Whitesell • Nancy Hall • Sam Mizener • Tom Rogers • Anne Scruggs

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 lifelong learner.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS