



Fall provides students and teachers opportunities to enjoy the weather with outside class sessions—especially on the Greek steps.

NOVEMBER 2, 2020
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MAJORIS



QUID NOVI

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

STAYING ON MISSION FOR THIRTY YEARS

by John Heaton, Headmaster

Several years ago I received a courtesy notice in the mail from a school with which I was very familiar. They were announcing the appointment of a new Headmaster, but it took my breath away when I looked to the bottom of the letter to read the school's mission statement. The school was more than 100 years old and had proclaimed its mission on paper and in stained glass in its chapel, straight from St. Paul to the Ephesians, "...until we all come to the full measure of the stature of Christ," a beautiful statement indeed. The statement at the bottom of the stationery, however, suddenly proclaimed succinctly: "until we all come to full stature." The "of Christ" part was neatly deleted, suggesting a not so subtle shift in mission.

The hard work of sustaining fidelity to a clear-eyed course challenges the most established institutions. The last thirty years has seen a founding generation of classical schools in large

part because the mission of providing classical education was dropped by schools that once espoused it. Since the publication of Doug Wilson's *Recovering the Lost Tool of Learning* in 1991, there has been a renaissance of schools rising to the effort called for in that and subsequent books. New Covenant was one of those schools, founded the very same year his book was published.

After 30 years there is still a palpable energy felt in the hallways of our school and those like it. There is a freshness in the spirit of teachers in the classroom, an enthusiasm unmatched in any sector of private or public education. If and when the first flush of success dims, however, mission drift can be our great enemy.

The mission of a school is obviously the stewardship of the "owners," the board of directors. Our board's commitment to New Covenant's mission is reinforced by its own statement that it

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WHAT'S NEW?



We have been very pleased with the classroom music instruction Mrs. Angell, Mrs. Bailey, Dr. Musgrave and Mr. Nigro have provided in history, composers and even a little theory as the school year has begun. The students say that they have enjoyed the variety as well. But we are anxious to return to playing our instruments and singing. Our COVID team has been meeting to monitor local health conditions to help us decide when we can safely mix our students, and to evaluate the special requirements for spacing when singing and playing. Second semester schedule changes will allow us to have a large room for each of the three ensembles and time for cleaning rooms between uses. Based on these spaces becoming available, local health information, and our published mitigations plan, we are pleased to announce that middle school ensembles will begin rehearsing together on January 11, 2021.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC ENSEMBLES

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

HONORARIA

MIDDLE SCHOOL POETRY FINALISTS



5th and 6th grade: Ruby Helm (6th—winner), Joel Ng (6th), Lizzie Miller (5th), Charis Durand (5th—grade winner), Owen Luley (6th), Naomi Rigg (5th), Emma Haupricht (6th), Wyatt Copenhaver (5th).



7th and 8th grade: Declund Stevenson (8th—grade winner and Jefferson Cup winner), Judah Forshey (7th—grade winner), Jenna Ng (8th), Ryleigh Taylor (7th), Corey Hackenbracht (8th), Olivia Hostetler (7th), Brey Welch (8th), Judah Deyo (7th).

THE 30 FOR 30 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 \$7,847.

30 for 30



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	YTD
Annual Fund	\$30,000	\$7,847
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$13,404
Foundation	\$200,000	Pledged \$338,500 Received \$31,566

Please consider New Covenant Schools in your giving. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent that the law provides. Donations may be given through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

ET CETERA

EVERYONE

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

We will be holding parent teacher conferences this **Wednesday, November 4** from 12:30-6:00 pm. Students do not attend school this day. SignUp Genius links for parents were emailed by Naomi Hostetler on October 27. Please sign up to meet with your student's teacher.

HELP THE LIBRARY WITH YOUR PURCHASE

The library wants to remind you that Givens Books & Little Dickens has a rebate program that has provided our library with hundreds of free books. New Covenant Schools receives 3% of your pre-tax purchase total when you simply mention New Covenant Schools to the cashier as you check out. Any family member can participate—parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, too—so be sure to spread the word! Thank you for supporting our school library.

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

TAP applications for the 2021-22 school year will be accepted from **November 9, 2020** through **January 31, 2021**. There is high demand for assistance, and it is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis! So do not delay! To apply visit: www.factsmgt.com/aid. Please be watching your email for more detailed instructions in the coming weeks.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

The school year is well underway and the admissions department at New Covenant is 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,



SPORTS SCORES

Tuesday, October 27

MS BOYS SOCCER

NCS	3
North Cross.....	0

MS VOLLEYBALL

NCS	2
King's Christian	3

JV VOLLEYBALL

NCS	2
King's Christian	0

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

NCS	3
SWVirginia Homeschool.....	0

Thursday, October 29

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

NCS	3
North Cross	0

Pre-K and Kindergarten classes can fill quickly. Click here to start your application: <https://www.newcceanschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

There will be no school **Monday, November 23** through **Friday, November 27** for our Thanksgiving Break. Students return to school on **Monday, November 30**.

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



new covenant schools

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intends for New Covenant to be here, true to our founding vision, for the children and grandchildren of current students. Boards, however, can only affect a relatively small handful of factors that keep the school on course. Most of those are systemic - hire the right head of school, enact policies that are on mission, etc. They cannot - and should not - interfere in the daily discharge of the school's work. Thus, mission drift is most successfully attenuated when there is buy-in to the mission from top to bottom. Board members must be appropriately profiled and selected, but so must faculty members and students themselves. Parents, too, must take the time to appreciate the school's fundamental purpose.

We are currently in a milestone year, but even at 30 we are among the youngest schools in Central Virginia. In three decades we have come so far that our earliest graduates in the late 90's hardly recognize the experience enjoyed by today's students. The steady growth of the student body, the addition of buildings, and the expansion of programming has the potential to leave a bewildering sense that the school is changing.

I assure you, it is not. Here are some simple things we do to stay true to our mission.

First, we read our mission statement out loud routinely. Every faculty meeting begins with a unison recitation of our school's purpose. I have done this for more than twenty years, and I have often found that minor details on the agenda often link directly to something major in the mission statement. Moreover, as time passes, this practice helps newer faculty members obtain a sense of what is important to us. I use those first moments of a meeting to catechize new members of the faculty in the big picture in a conversational and uncontrived way. If I were to sense that this practice was becoming awkward, I would have to wonder if the mission statement was disconnected from what we are actually doing. If the answer was "yes," it would suggest mission drift.

Second, we consciously justify programming in terms of the mission. Every program we start, change, or eliminate, is done because there is a missional purpose, and each decision often has unintended consequences. For example, we have a robust sports program that is mission appropriate, so does it make sense to restrict students from playing sports because of poor grades? We have answered that negatively. Would a student be withdrawn from, say, Latin, because he had a low average? Why then should a student be pulled from athletics if it is our mission to develop students

with team sports? One could substitute any number of other examples, but the point is that we relentlessly consider how mission drives policy.

Third, we talk openly with students about the kind of school New Covenant is. We do not take for granted that youngsters understand the first principles of our school. They likely do not have a clue as to what "trivium," "liberal arts," or "dialectic" mean for them. They do not have context to know why their school is unique among schools. Thus, we are currently working on more effective ways to help students become aware not only of the content of their disciplines, but of the larger classical, Christian tradition. In a time when there is increasingly open hostility by many in our culture to the western tradition, American history, and Christian faith, our desire is that students avoid a rude awakening when they leave our halls and move to the next level of education or vocation.

Finally, the mission of our school is not simply a statement that shows up on the back of your newsletter. Every member of the school's parent community has a stake in its identity and direction. While we enjoy the fruits of many who have made our school what it is, it is our duty to honor their efforts by keeping the school true to its vision.

HONORS FOR 1ST QUARTER 2019-2020

SCHOOLS OF RHETORIC AND DIALECTIC

THE HEADMASTER'S LIST

Summa cum laude

Stone Clark, 12	Hannah Craven, 12	Tessa Hackenbracht, 12	Elizabeth Kittrell, 12
Christopher Matney, 12	Elizabeth Olmsted, 12	Phoebe Prillaman, 12	Ann Claire Terrell, 12
Janna Renalds, 12	Makenzy Bates, 11	Gioia Calabretta, 11	Madeline Duncan, 11
Dalton Foster, 11	Saige Knapton, 11	Michael Marotta, 11	Brie Olson, 11
Ellie Walker, 11	Jael Brenning, 10	Lydia Craven, 10	Jenna Hackenbracht, 10
Victoria Johnson, 10	Kaden Newsome, 10	Alina Cai, 9	Noah Caldwell, 9
Nicole Clark, 9	Adora Hampton, 9	Saria Hostetler, 9	Olivia Kidd, 9
Caleb McCormick, 9	Mary Glenn Morse, 9	Virginia Morse, 9	Andrew Rogers, 9
Brielle Walker, 9			

THE DEAN'S LIST

Magna cum laude

Titus Brenning, 12	Ellen Anne Deneen, 12	Brandon Hostetler, 12	Konner Johnson, 12
Virginia Robert, 12	Natalie Rogers, 12	Cayli Snipes, 12	Izabel Zealand, 12
Rylee Ames, 11	Skylar McCurley, 11	Josie Scruggs, 11	Rebekah Bryant, 10
Van Curran, 10	Will Kittrell, 10	Hannah LaGrone, 10	Waylon Spiva, 10
Jackson Taylor, 10	Jude Vollmer, 10	Ally Horne, 9	Luke Libbey, 9
Sarah Robert, 9	Abby Rose, 9	Charlotte Seay, 9	Ava Zealand, 9

Cum laude

David Keenan, 12	Anna Burton, 11	William Rooney, 11	Dylan Abaidoo, 10
Helene Kimlick, 10	Nate Kirshberger, 10	Elizabeth Matney, 10	Abigail Place, 10
Micah Cortez, 9	Zach Dixon, 9	Emie FreerkSEN, 9	Mae Jacobs, 9
Diego Leal, 9	Bella Trevey, 9		

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summa cum laude

James Brophy, 8	John Brophy, 8	Corey Hackenbracht, 8	Melia Leitner, 8
Jenna Ng, 8	Gigi Olson, 8	David Tolle, 8	Jocelyn Walker, 8
Brey Welch, 8	Joy Basten, 7	Graden Bolton, 7	Judah Forshey, 7

Magna cum laude

Lizzie Bryant, 8	Elizabeth Deneen, 8	James Deyo, 8	Jack Duncan, 8
Emma Fritz, 8	Cora Helm, 8	Grace HendrickSEN, 8	Elle Jacobs, 8
Noah McCormick, 8	Reese Murphy, 8	Mary Kate Place, 8	Declund Stevenson, 8
Luke Cordes, 7	Ella Dudley, 7	Olivia Hostetler, 7	Micah Xayavong, 7

Cum laude

Abby Burton, 8	Emily Trautman, 8	Judah Deyo, 7	Andre Frenchik, 7
Alicia Kenny, 7	Emma Kate Lovell, 7	Wyatt Renalds, 7	

STUDENT HEALTH AND YOUR SCHOOL

by Beth Mayberry, RN, School Nurse

We are about twelve weeks into the school year and our part of the Commonwealth is considered to be in "Substantial Community Transmission" according to the Virginia Department of Health Pandemic Metrics website. The mitigation committee at the school continues to meet regularly and is studying ways to use these metrics in guiding our mitigations as we move forward. We must also recognize that we are still under Executive Order no. 63 and the Phase 3 Guidelines put forth by the Governor. Taken together we urge our parents and students to remain patient and to persevere in our current protocols. We will likely be dealing with the virus for the rest of the academic year in some fashion. Our goal is to maintain in-person instruction. Here are some ways you can help us remain fully open:

1. Daily health and exposure screening at home of faculty and students is the first recommendation from the CDC in its guidelines for schools. This has been a large part of our success thus far. Parents have done an excellent job at keeping an "under the weather" student home and then communicating with the clinic staff regarding the next step. Please continue to do this by using the email: schoolnurses2020@newcovenantschools.org.
2. As holiday breaks come into view, please be mindful of where you are going and how the folks around you are adhering to the recommended guidelines. Let's not share more than pumpkin pie with each other.
3. We are only as successful in reducing the spread of COVID as the person sitting next to us is. We are completely dependent on everyone "buying in" and following our guidelines. We urge you to maintain compliance. Face covering is the most important personal responsibility. None of us likes it, and many of us may debate its effectiveness; nevertheless, we all need to adhere to the policy as it was set forth in our re-opening plans. The policies don't end when the bell rings at 3:00 pm or when we have an event in the evening. They inform and influence all of our activities on campus.
4. We are one of very few schools competing with a limited athletic schedule. While we are pleased that this is the case, nevertheless, social distancing and face covering must be observed in the field house. This is a very likely place to experience transmission, especially in the student section of the bleachers.
5. Open and honest communication regarding health and potential exposure is key. Missing a day or two of school is not a high price to pay to avoid whole sections of a class being put into quarantine. Our older, more independent students should be mindful of what could happen if they decide to come to school when not feeling well because they are afraid of missing class.

Thank you for your efforts. Continue to stay the course so that we can do our part to reduce our local transmission rates and return to a more normal environment.

Beth Mayberry, RN