



The library Christmas tree reflects the beauty of the season.

QUID NOVI

NOVEMBER 30, 2020
VOL. 23 NO. 18
MAJORIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS



PREDICTABILITY AND SUPPORT: TWO KEYS TO COMMUNITY SUCCESS

by John Heaton, Headmaster

Research from Independent School Management (ISM) shows that the two factors that correlate most closely to long-term academic success for students are a predictable environment coupled with support.

Predictability means that the rule/reward structure is strong, but also intelligible and fair from the student perspective. It also means that faculty and administrative responses are consistent, fair, and accurate from the student and parent perspective, particularly regarding what is positively or negatively reinforced.

Support means that the faculty and administrative staffs appear to the students

genuinely to desire the student's success, and work to elicit that success, while not overlooking the importance of accurate—not inflated—feedback and reinforcement.

Over the years New Covenant has taken these two principles to heart and applied them in nearly everything we do. Administration seeks predictability and support with the faculty, intentionally responding to their needs quickly and maintaining clear routines and expectations. We try to maintain transparency in leadership, to avoid uncertainty, and to encourage unity around a shared vision of education. A healthy faculty culture is key to a healthy student culture; in fact,

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WHAT'S NEW?



Can you see the background for this article? I didn't think so. It's nothing to look at, but it is a picture of a key element of our effort to upgrade the acoustics in the Moomaw Gym. This grey background is actually an acoustical tile, which, when installed on the walls in that space, will improve your ability to hear your child's programs that are held in this space. We are poised to install 132 tiles during the Christmas holiday, but we need your help. The 30 for 30 Campaign is seeking to raise gifts in the amount of \$30 (one dollar for each year of our history) to make the proposed improvements. If all our parents and friends will help, the project can be easily completed. Thank you for supporting this project!

UPGRADING SOUND IN MOOMAW

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

HANNAH CRAVEN NOMINATED FOR JEFFERSON SCHOLAR



Senior Hannah Craven is the recipient of the faculty and staff nomination for the Jefferson Scholar, the University of Virginia's highest scholarship distinction for applicants who best exemplify uncommon excellence in leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. Prospective Scholars are eligible for regional competition and engage in a panel interview to determine advancement to the Scholarship Selection Event in March. Congratulations, Hannah!

TUITION AND RE-ENROLLMENT INFORMATION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Each year our board of directors meets in October/November to discuss what the tuition structure should be in the next academic year. The board has a tricky job. On the one hand, it seeks to offer a predictable fee structure, published months in advance for the benefit of our families. On the other hand, even using the best data at hand, the board must set tuition nearly a year before the next term begins, not knowing what enrollment will be, or precisely what expenses may add.

Meeting this fall, the board determined that tuition and fees for the 2021-22 school term will not change but will remain flat. Board members understand that uncertainty remains in many sectors of the economy, and they empathize with those in our community who may have suffered financial setbacks in the past year. In an effort to maintain stability, the staff offered the board budget scenarios that maintain our faculty and staff and essential programming, while being very conservative on strategic initiatives.

New Covenant operates on "continuous enrollment" contracts in grade K-12. That

means that in your first year of association with New Covenant you sign one contract—that's all. This contract renews each year automatically, and only changes if you add or withdraw a student. Other than that, you need not worry about filling out multiple forms for students or spending hours on the computer late at night to meet a deadline. There are, however, some things you should know.

1. There is a continuous enrollment fee (CEF) of \$150 that is billed to you on **February 1**. If you withdraw a student for the following year this fee is not charged. This fee is imposed upon us by FACTS. We do not control it, and it is not applied to tuition.

2. The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) is open now and will remain open through **January 31** for current parents. We cannot stress enough that if you receive TAP or believe that your circumstances may qualify you, you must act early. Do not delay your participation in this process. TAP is generous, but it is limited, and early responders will be favored. If applications are completed by **Tuesday,**

December 1—with all items submitted—you are guaranteed to receive notice of your TAP award by **December 18** prior to Christmas break. Any applications submitted after **December 1** may not receive notice of awards until after Christmas break. The link to apply for TAP is www.factsmgt.com/aid.

3. Withdrawal of a student for the current or following school year can be done by completing the Withdrawal Form available upon request in the school office. The "opt-out" period is open until **February 1** for the following school year with no financial penalty. If you withdraw your child after the "opt-out" deadline but before **April 1**, then you will be responsible for 25% of tuition and fees for the following school year. If you withdraw after **April 1** but before **May 1**, then you will be responsible for 50% of tuition and fees for the following school year. If you withdraw after **May 1**, then you will be responsible for 100% of tuition and fees for the following school year.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

LESSONS & CAROLS

The Annual Service of Lessons and Carols will be held on **Thursday, December 10 at 7 pm** in the sanctuary of **Hyland Heights Baptist Church**. The church is spacious and will easily hold all who wish to attend, with social distancing and mitigations in place for your health and safety. Students in the combined School of Rhetoric band, orchestra and choir will be leading the service with selected students as readers for the lessons. The service is participatory and **there is even a 9:00 am start to school the next day for all grades**. Everyone is welcome! Join us and begin your Christmas season with Lessons and Carols.

ATHLETIC COMPETITION

New Covenant continues to host basketball games, but spectators are now limited to one or two persons per player, depending on the size of the team. Tickets are required to attend all games. Please refer to the email from **John Maynard** sent on **Tuesday, November 17** for details.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

On **December 9** from **3:15-3:45 pm** the FCA will host an event featuring a guest speaker, followed by activities. All students in grades 9-12 are invited to attend.

HEALTH MONITORING REMINDER

As we return from the Thanksgiving Break we hope that our families remain safe and healthy. Remember to be diligent in medical screening at home, observing symptoms and self-checking. **Please do not send sick children to school.** Flu

season is upon us, and with it there is a possibility that your child may exhibit symptoms for illnesses not related to COVID. If you have any question about whether or not you should obtain a test for COVID, please call the school office and speak with our nursing staff for guidance.

DECK THE HALLS

We thank **Naomi Hostetler, Michelle Richardson, Annie Libbey, Susan Deneen, Michelle Dixon, Dani Hottle, Bryan Williams** and **Julia Harris** for their efforts in putting up our annual Christmas decorations around the school. We are pleased that school is cheerfully decorated for the enjoyment of students and faculty alike.

NEW SIBLING APPLICATIONS

Current families who were planning to enroll NEW siblings for the 2021-2022 school year should do so by **December 1**. After this date, your seats are released to those outside the New Covenant community. You may apply after this deadline, but the seat may not be available if you wait. To apply, visit the website at www.newcovenantschools.org and click on "Apply Here" at the top of the home page.

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP) —APPLY NOW!

TAP is now accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year. The link to access FACTS tuition assistance applications is <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. When applying, you will be asked to submit your 2019 tax returns. The fee to apply is \$35, and is charged by FACTS, not the school. Please note that applications will

be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis similar to last year. The deadline to apply for TAP is **January 31, 2021**, but you will benefit by filing early. **So do not delay in applying!** Please refer to an email sent on **Thursday, November 5** for detailed instructions.

TAX CREDITS OFFERED!

Nearly everyone can redirect tax money toward student scholarships and receive huge tax benefits. If you would like to know how this is accomplished, contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office at drenalds@newcovenantschools.org.

CHRISTMAS BREAK SCHEDULE

School will be dismissed for Christmas Break on **Friday, December 18 at 11:00 am** for students in Pre-K-8th grades. Due to exams, students in 9th-12th grades will be dismissed at **12:15 pm**. All students return on **Wednesday, January 6**.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

FINAL AND MID-TERM EXAMS

The School of Rhetoric final and mid-term exams will be given **Thursday & Friday, December 17 & 18**. The SoR will dismiss at **12:15 pm** on both days.

PLEASE NOTE

The school nurse email address is:
schoolnurses2020@newcovenantschools.org

FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	YTD
Annual Fund	\$30,000	\$19,897
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$13,922
Foundation	\$200,000	Pledged \$351,500 Received \$48,566

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.



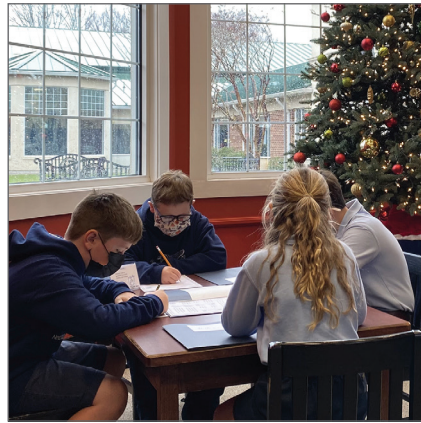
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the child's experience at New Covenant is a participation in the faculty culture.

Predictability and support are vital in the parent relationship as well. It shows most clearly in the overall management of classrooms and communication. A parent whose child enters New Covenant in the first grade should have a consistent experience regardless of who is teaching which section. When a student moves to the second grade, the experience should feel the same. Allowing for differences in giftedness from teacher to teacher, the transition from grade to grade should be largely monolithic, not wholly other.

We try to offer parents predictability in scheduling. Today, for example, our staff will meet for its first discussion of next year's academic calendar, which we will publish to you after the first of the year. This gives you the ability to plan for things that are important to your family. Once published, we change the calendar or move dates only in the most extreme circumstances.

Finally, we offer parents predictability in our tuition structure, tuition assistance, and the entire re-enrollment process. We seek to publish our tuition schedules on or around December 1 each year. This gives



parents nearly a year to make any implied budgetary adjustments when tuition rises. Our process of continuous enrollment means that to hold your child's seat for the following year, you do nothing—we re-enroll automatically. There is no new contract to sign, no hassle, no filling out form after form. All we ask parents to do is update any personal information that has changed.

New Covenant offers you the benefits of a classical education, with one of the strongest programs in our community. At the same time, we hold ourselves to high standards of predictability and support so that our students and parents may thrive with the benefits that flow from a healthy school culture.

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