

Spirits were high despite the wet weather as students arrived for the first day of school last week.



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

AUGUST 23, 2021  
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## FIVE ESSENTIALS OF THE NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY—PART 1: SHARED AUTHORITY

by Headmaster John Heaton

*The following is part 1 of a series adapted from the Headmaster's address to the school community at Convocation, August 15, 2021.*

New Covenant Schools represents a layer of community, not quite like our neighborhoods in which we live; rather, it is constructed around the common purposes of parenting, enriching our children's experience of faith, paving a pathway to advanced literacy, and providing an arena where they can safely explore the world, and where they can make and recover from mistakes.

The fact that there is a price tag for the opportunity should not blind us to the fact that we are a community, and that our relationships to one

another cannot be boiled down to a mere contractual arrangement. A community is not transactional. Today we are faced as never before with extreme social pressures, political divisions, disease threats, and so much more. I want to offer you a clear reminder of who we are, what we stand for, and what a classical, Christian school can accomplish in your child's life.

First, participation in our school is a participation in the culture of the Church. It was the Christian Church, committed to the care and rearing of children, that, in the West spawned schools out of its cathedrals and eventually its parishes. These early schools existed for the education of the

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### WHAT'S NEW?

#### COVID Rapid Tests

New Covenant Schools clinic will be offering on-site COVID-19 antigen testing for symptomatic children beginning this week. The antigen test is a form of rapid test with an extremely low false-negative rate (less than 1%) in symptomatic individuals. Results are processed on site in approximately 15 minutes. This test will be available to children and faculty who become symptomatic while at school. A fee of \$15 will be charged to your FACTS account should you elect to have your child tested for COVID-19 by clinic staff.



NEW COVENANT schools

# ANNUAL PICNIC BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Friday August 27, 2021

- 5:00 pm Gryphon Growler on-site registration and bounce houses open  
\$5 per runner/\$20 per family
- 5:30 pm Gryphon Growler 1K (suggested race for Grammar School students and parents)  
Food service opens - \$5 hamburger/hot dog combo meals
- 5:50 pm Gryphon Growler 3K (suggested race for Middle School runners) and 5K (suggested race for Middle School through adult runners)
- 6:30 pm Varsity Soccer vs. Tandem Friends School
- 7:15 pm Gryphon Growler awards ceremony

**gryphon  
growler** 

Register through SignUpGenius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084BAFAB2CA3F58-gryphon1>

# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL PICNIC

Our annual Back-to-School Fellowship Picnic and Gryphon Growler will be held **Friday, August 27** beginning at **5:00pm** (see page 2 for schedule). Bring your family and come join us for a good time together! We will have hamburger and hot dog combo meals available for purchase at \$5 each. Be sure to bring lawn chairs or a picnic blanket and make plans to stay to cheer on our varsity men's soccer team at 6:30pm.

### STUDENT PICK-UP/ABSENCES

If your child will be absent, please send an email to [ncsoffice@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:ncsoffice@newcovenantschools.org) indicating the reason for their absence. Or, if you need to pick up a

student early for an appointment, email the time you need your student in the lobby and who is picking up. An early notice allows us to have your student ready causing less interruption in the classroom.

### GRYPHON OUTFITTERS

The school store is open each Thursday school is in session from **2:30-3:30pm**. Please make every effort to shop during those times. However, if your schedule doesn't allow for that, you may contact **Lara Haupricht** at [lhaupricht@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:lhaupricht@newcovenantschools.org) and she will fill your order as soon as she is able to.

### RIDE SHARING

Be sure to update Renweb regarding who can pick up your child. If someone comes to pick up 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 go to: School Information > Web Forms > Family Demographic Form Transportation > Transportation Form. Enter those individuals who are allowed to transport your child. Click save when finished. (If your child is getting picked up early, a notice to the office is required.)

### LABOR DAY

There will be no school on **Monday, September 6**.

## CONVOCATION LAUNCHES THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

*2021-22 Faculty and Class of 2022 seniors*



### PLEASE NOTE

The school nurse email address is:  
[2021schoolnurses@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:2021schoolnurses@newcovenantschools.org)

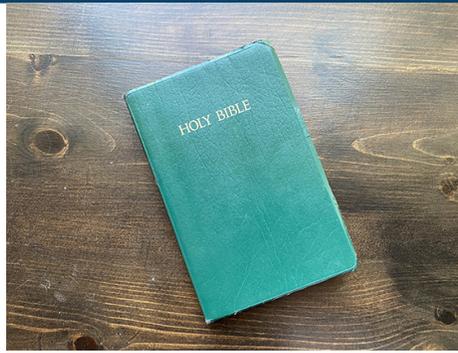
continued from p. 1

young and the transmission of faith and culture. Today the secular public school has largely supplanted that, spawning its schools out of city hall, and should, by comparison, bring the differences into stark relief. I don't make my living decrying public education, but I do want you to be reminded of who we are and what we're about.

Second, participation in our academic and faith community assumes a receptive posture on the part of the parent and student. The school is not a performative platform upon which a student exhibits and manifests who he/she is. New Covenant is not a stage upon which dozens of ignorant, unformed selves serially process, disclosing their preferences and desires to all who will watch. (I know that's almost a description of middle school, but I don't intend that.)

The purpose of the school is not to flatter the ignorances of the student; it is not here to indulge the unformed (or possibly mis-formed) desires of the students; it is not to tolerate misshapen moral proclivities of the students; and it is not here to grant sainthood to the current crop of supermodels, rap stars, or other notables in popular culture. We do not proceed in our endeavor celebrating the supremacy of the self-determining individual. Rather, we have a very long academic and faith tradition which is thick with the intention to turn students away from looking inward to themselves, and finding their recognition and their place within a community of shared values. What might those values be? There are five, and the first is this:

**Our community is built upon shared authority.** We begin with the recognition by all that the Holy Scriptures define our world and our place in God's order. The Scriptures reveal to us where we came from, where we are going, and how we are to live in our historical moment. They



teach us what is good, true and beautiful, and show us how to orient our lives to enjoy human flourishing. It is not merely a voice among voices; it is *the* voice to which all of us subordinate ourselves. We do not negotiate the Scriptures against our experiences; we negotiate ourselves and our experiences against the Scriptures.

The Christian school is not designed as an escape mechanism from failing public schools. Our vision is not that we offer an academic parallel to what a public school offers, adding a spice of religion in each grade. Our commitment is vastly more complex than that. We believe that the world we inhabit was created by God, that creation comes to us as a gift, and that it has a "givenness" about it. Because God is a rational being, the world made in his image is also rational. The nature of the world and human beings is stable and constant. It can be explored, investigated and known. It has meaning and purpose, which meaning and purpose can be understood in the light of the Scriptures.

Beginning in this way, the long history of the classical, Christian tradition presupposes an intellectual coherence that assures us that our academic pursuits are situated within a unified field of knowledge. Each of the liberal arts thus represent a branch of human learning, reflecting the extraordinary diversity of the world. Even in this vast diversity, however, human knowledge possesses a fundamental unity. In recognition of this unity and diversity in our experience of the world, the Church invented what we call the "uni-versity," a word coined to

express this basic fact.

The Western Church, which contributed so much to the development of education in our history, laid down what we might consider to be the pre-conditions necessary for the educational effort to progress. New Covenant continues in that tradition and is therefore decidedly not secular in its view of facts, as if brute facts could exist without meaning. There are no neutral facts in a world created by God. At the deepest level, the level of what we might call presuppositions, we are committed to the vision of the world as it is presented in the Scriptures, and we hold the Scriptures to be authoritative in our thinking.

## 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 lifelong learner.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# NEW COVENANT schools

## COVID CLARIFICATIONS

AUGUST 23, 2021

*This is to clarify to parents several aspects of protocols with regard to mitigations in practice at New Covenant.*

First, we wish to be clear that we are not ignoring or repudiating the latest mandate that came from the Health Commissioner. Nothing in previous emails should have been taken to suggest this. The mandate directed individuals to use masks in the K-12 school environment. Our expectation is that students and staff will comply. At the same time, the mandate provides for two exemptions, which are available to parents on the basis of a medical condition, or a religious exemption. Any parent who claims an exemption should contact the Clinic Office.

Parents in our community should not interpret our posture as “anything goes.” Our purpose is to honor the choices that parents make within the parameters of the mandate as promulgated. Parents who file no exemptions will be supported by administration and faculty/staff in the masking of their children. Those parents who claim exemptions as provided by the mandate will also be honored. This is what it means for us to stand “in loco parentis” (in place of a parent), which the Health Commissioner has preserved in the mandate. It is important to note that New Covenant is not acting as the enforcer of a universal, unqualified posture. The mandate itself provides otherwise, and we respect that.

Lastly, if your child has had COVID in the last 90 days, they are exempt from quarantine AND testing.

### QUARANTINES AND COHORTS

We continue to follow the CDC Guidance, but this guidance continues to change:

**1) Guidance: The CDC no longer requires quarantine for entire grade sections (think cohorts) when a student tests positive.**



**Response:** When a student tests positive, we use seating charts and schedules to determine

who was likely exposed. Only those exposed students are quarantined, not the entire class or section. This change in guidance effectively voids any necessity to form cohorts of children.

**2) Guidance: When a student who is masked tests positive, students exposed to that child, but who were**

**also masked, do not quarantine.**

**Response:** They are not required to test if both parties are wearing well-fitting masks the entire time, per Lynchburg Department of Health. Students who were exposed and were unmasked are quarantined until such time as they may obtain a negative PCR test. Exempting your child from wearing a mask means that he/she is much more likely to be quarantined.

**3) Guidance: When an exempted, unmasked student tests positive, students exposed to that child are quarantined regardless of masking.**



**Response:** Points 2 & 3 represent a significant change in CDC guidance. Previously, entire sections of masked students were quarantined.

### CLOSE CONTACT TO COVID POSITIVE

*If student is . . .*

| VACCINATED  | UNVACCINATED  |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| No quarantine   | Both parties masked                                 | Either party unmasked   | Confirmed positive COVID-19 within the last 90 days |
| ↓   | ↓   | ↓   | ↓   |
| Student continues in school and wears a mask for 14 days from exposure  | No quarantine                                       | Quarantine—Student should quarantine for 10 days from last exposure   | Exempt from quarantine and testing                  |
| ↓   | ↓   | ↓   |   |
| Student can shorten this by testing after day 3 of exposure—assuming a negative result, they can forgo the mask if they have an exemption on file | Student is not considered exposed in this situation | Students can shorten this by testing after 5 days—assuming a negative result, they can end quarantine after day 7 |   |