

Runners take off for the Gryphon Growler 3K and 5K at the Back-to-School Picnic on Friday.



THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

AUGUST 30, 2021
VOL. 24 NO. 04 MAJORIS

FIVE ESSENTIALS OF THE NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY—PART 2: SHARED LITURGIES

by Headmaster John Heaton

The following is part 2 of a series adapted from the Headmaster's address to the school community at Convocation, August 15, 2021.

New Covenant Schools is a community that is organized around five common values. The first of these is a commitment to common authority, which for us lies in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. This is the book that binds us together in a common faith.

Second, our community is built and survives on common liturgies. By this I am referring not simply to religious moments in the life of the school such as chapel. I am referring to formative rituals that foster

habits of the heart. Ritual is one way that human beings make statements about what is important. At Convocation, Graduation, or Lessons & Carols, we engage in overtly religious ritual. We wear special clothes, we invite our students to join their teachers in procession, not simply as subordinates, but signifying that they are full participants in the action of gaining their education and preparing for their futures. We make a big deal out of these moments, because the greater the measure of “fuss” that we make—the more thick the ritual—the more we communicate the importance of what is being transacted.

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WHAT'S NEW?

Schedule a Tour

New Covenant Schools hosts classroom and facility tours **each Thursday at 9:15am**. 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. Tour space is limited and reservations are required.



THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

GRYPHON GROWLER RESULTS | AUGUST 27, 2021



Girls' 1K

- | | |
|-------------------|------|
| 1. Evie Jacobs | 2:22 |
| 2. Bertie Seckman | 2:36 |
| 3. Macy Vollmer | 2:53 |

Boys' 1K

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| 1. Caleb Chernov | 2:20 |
| 2. Abe Kirshberger | 2:24 |
| 3. Conner Lancaster | 2:24 |

Girls' 3K

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Ruby Helm | 15:58 |
| 2. Gia Barlow | 17:29 |
| 3. Charlotte Libbey | 17:32 |

Boys' 3K

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. Michael Seckman | 12:54 |
| 2. Eli Rose | 13:56 |
| 3. Luke Hottle | 14:09 |

Mens' 5K

- | | |
|------------------|-------|
| 1. John Sorenson | 22:25 |
| 2. Shaefer Seay | 24:05 |
| 3. Josh Ivins | 24:10 |

HOUSE HEADS 2021-22

Congratulations to this year's School of Rhetoric House Council winners. This group will represent the student body through their respective houses and will work to foster school spirit and unity.

ALEXANDRIA



Brie Olson



Jude Vollmer

ANTIOCH



William Rooney



Will Spruill

CANTERBURY



Madeline Duncan



Michael Marotta

WITTENBERG



Ellie Walker



Dalton Foster

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

RIDE SHARING

Be sure to update Renweb regarding who is authorized to pick up your child. If someone comes to retrieve your child and you have not given them permission in Renweb, we will call you to confirm the dismissal. To indicate who can pick up your child, log into Renweb, and go to: School Home > Web Forms > Family Demographic Form > Transportation. Enter those individuals who are allowed to transport your child. Click save when finished. (If your child is leaving school early, a notice to the office is required.)

LABOR DAY

There will be no school or QUID NOVI next **Monday, September 6.**

SCHOOL PICTURES

TSS Photography will be on campus next **Thursday, September 9** 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 also be taken on this day.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

If you are available during the school day and wish to be on call as a substitute teacher you can apply for the position and be added to our list of subs. If interested, go to the "Join Our Team" page on the school website and submit a faculty application online, omitting the essays.

PARENTS WELCOME

We are grateful for the opportunity to welcome parents back onto campus and into the building this year. When you are planning your visit, please remember the following protocols required of our campus visitors:

1. All visitors must use the main entrance and be signed in. Please do not leave the lobby area without receiving authorization from front desk personnel (not even to peek in the kindergarten wing or front office)!
2. Your visit should be purposeful and planned, with every attempt not to disrupt class. You are welcome to visit during your student's lunchtime. If you wish to visit the classroom or have a conference with your child's teacher, please contact the office.
3. Early pickup is discouraged as it causes disruption to class time (our teachers are teaching up to 3:00pm). However, if you need to pick up a student early for an appointment, **send an email to ncsoffice@newcovenantschools.org** with the time your student should be in the lobby and who is picking up.

EASY WAYS TO HELP NEW COVENANT RAISE MONEY!

Kroger Plus Card—You can help New Covenant earn money simply by linking your Kroger account to our school. Simply log in to your Kroger account online and select New Covenant Schools to receive your community rewards. Our organization number is IX901.

Collecting Box Tops— You can earn money that will go toward special purchases for our school. Download the Box Tops app on your smartphone and start collecting!

Do you shop Amazon?—You can make every purchase count! Visit www.smile.amazon.com and support New Covenant through your purchases. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to New Covenant.

Givens/Little Dickens Bookstore—This local bookstore 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 or friend can participate.

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 or make a bigger impact with your charitable gift. Join us for breakfast **Wednesday, September 15 at 7:45am** to hear from our Director of Development on how these programs work. Reserve your spot through this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084BAFAB2CA3F58-newcovenant7>

PLEASE NOTE

The school nurse email address is:
2021schoolnurses@newcovenantschools.org

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Our seniors are now in their final year, a year of great transition as they move from childhood to young adulthood, from immaturity to maturity. It is a moment to mark. It helps parents, too, to recognize that their lives are changing. Your community at New Covenant is validating, signifying and celebrating with you, pledging to sustain you with its own constancy.

There are also unspoken liturgies. Think of these as embodied rituals and material practices that are calculated to instill a habit. James K.A. Smith notes, “Education is a holistic endeavor that involves the whole person, including our bodies, in a process of formation that aims our desires, primes our imagination, and orients us to the world—all before we ever start thinking about it.” Considered this way, we are not *homo sapiens* (thinking man), but *homo liturgicus*, persons with desires that are oriented toward greater ultimacies.

A student’s behaviors are often driven more by imagination, and less by thinking, fueled as it is by images that are channeled through our senses. Smith continues, “The senses are portals to the heart, and the body is a channel to our core dispositions and identity. Over time, rituals and practices, often in tandem with aesthetic phenomena like pictures and stories—mold and shape our . . . disposition . . . by training our desires.” Thus, the Proverbs offer this injunction to the young: “Guard your heart with all diligence, for out it flow the issues of life.”

Controlling the messaging that shapes the heart is therefore one of the highest responsibilities of parents and teachers. At the end of the day, not only is curricular content important, but the actual environment of the school

is important. This is why we suppress phones and restrict access to the internet during school hours. The school is a refuge, an oasis from the massive amounts of desire-shaping imaging set before your children. Don’t forget that the “education” offered through social media and corporate marketing, etc. will shape your child’s desire and set in their hearts a particular view of what is good, what is cool, what is acceptable to friends, what is hot, and how a person is to feel about all of it—what is to be loved or repudiated.

To that end we give careful attention to the “liturgy” of architecture. We have been blessed with the unique opportunity to build a campus that reflects our curriculum. We built with great intention, beginning with a cleared-eyed curricular goal—to bring our students into contact with goodness, truth and beauty. It has been our continual quest to bring visible shape to those things that may not be readily apparent. We crafted our library,



our chapel, our common spaces flooded as they are with natural light to be spaces that shape us. We purposely avoid decorating our walls with what my Swiss mother-

in-law called “kitsch,” in a purposeful attempt to place the student in an environment that is ordered but beautiful, in an effort to affirm that while beauty is at once expensive, it is not dispensable.

Schools, churches and offices are often driven by the limitations of budgets and the need for the practical; yet, when given the chance to surpass the merely functional, we have chosen to make our physical space a part of the curriculum. A beautiful campus has not been created for its own sake; it has been created and maintained because it sets forth what we value as our highest ideals.

Common liturgies therefore are designed to shape the “unconscious,” which is formed over time through noncognitive avenues.

QUID NOVI

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• 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