

Reading with Mrs. Callaway in the courtyard is a highlight for the Grammar School.



THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

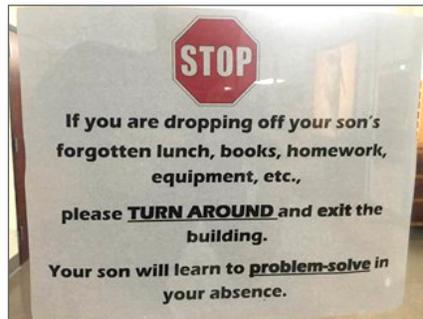
QUID NOVI

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by Headmaster John Heaton

This sign is pretty funny.

It made the rounds on Facebook, and while I probably wouldn't post it at New Covenant, I sympathize with its message. First, let's admit it: kids forget stuff. In Grammar School parents pack their children's backpacks and lunches carefully so if something is left out, it's usually mom's fault. By the time a student gets to Middle School, however, things change dramatically.



At that age children don't really want mom hovering around doing everything for them; at the same time many don't quite have the foresight to consistently get everything they need into the minivan in the morning. After all, they've not only got their books and homework, they might have a PE uniform, a sports bag, other clothing items for an after-school activity, a lunch, and other

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WHAT'S NEW?

Chapel Renovation Update

Most of you have seen the chapel construction as you drive through the drop off and pick up lines every day but only from the outside. You may have noticed that the installation of bricks has begun. The view from the inside is just as exciting. Workers have installed the ceiling trusses and put in the window frames. Insulation was blown into the walls and now the dry wall is beginning to be set in place. We are grateful to those who have helped us be able to expand this space and look forward to filling it with chapel services very soon.



THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

COVID UPDATE

Several weeks ago, we tightened our COVID-19 mitigations, enforcing the Commonwealth's Health order which was directed to individuals in public and private school settings. We took this action to suppress the rapid spread of infection, which occurred as early as the second day of school, and which issued in quarantines of large numbers of children in the first ten days of school. The contact tracing alone was overwhelming our medical staff. In tightening our mitigations, we also set a re-evaluation date of **September 20**.

When we adopted this posture, quarantining was no longer recommended, and the benefits were immediate. The number of students quarantined naturally dropped, and the numbers continue to shrink. Currently our quarantines include 3 students in grammar school, 4 in middle school, and only 1 in the SoR. Together, this represents only four families.

Significantly, as of today none of these quarantines are traceable to in-school exposure, and no positive cases of COVID have been traceable to in-school transmission. Of course, this could change, but without the masking protocol, even exposures external to the school would result in high numbers of students quarantined. This mitigation is working to achieve the highest value in this situation, which is to maintain *in-person* instruction.

Our medical staff continues to monitor local and regional infection rates, hospitalizations and deaths as reported by the Virginia Department of Health. While the instances of death are low – nevertheless, the infection and hospitalization rates are stubbornly high. Last week, Centra reported that over 100 patients – 1/3 of its capacity – were COVID related. All of this suggests that we should maintain the status quo at this time, with no change in our posture.

Going forward, we are also seeking to track the school's "herd immunity." We would like to know how many of our students 12+, along with faculty and staff, have protection from the virus through previous infection, antibody tests, or vaccination. This information is only requested – not required – but if parents would provide this information to the clinic, we could begin to get a fuller picture of the overall resistance in our school community. This is one factor we will consider in relaxing our mitigation standards in the future.

If you would like to offer this information to us, you can do so by going to your RenWeb account. Select webforms, **COVID-19 student vaccine status**. Or you may email the nursing staff at **NCSnurses@newcovenantschools.org**. All your medical information and school records are held confidentially by law.

MEN'S FALL WEEKEND

Attention all New Covenant Dads! You are invited to join John Heaton at his cabin in Bedford County on **Friday and Saturday, October 8 & 9** for a Men's Advance.

- Plenty of food from the grill
- Corn Hole
- Fishing in the pond
- Bonfire
- Skeet shooting (bring your own firearms)
- Pitch a tent or bring a camper
- Cost \$10 per person



It all begins at **5:00pm on Friday** evening and wraps up by noon on Saturday. Reserve your spot through this link—<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084bafab2ca3f58-mens>

You will not want to miss out on this weekend!

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

SCHOOL NURSE EMAIL

The email address for the school nurses is NCSnurses@newcovenantschools.org.

LATE SCHOOL ARRIVALS

If your student arrives to school after 8:00am, they are given a tardy slip from front desk workers that they hand to their teacher upon arrival to the classroom. Prior to 8:30am, nothing is required of parents. **If your student arrives to school after 8:30am, a parent must enter with their student and sign them in at the front desk.**

KINDERGARTEN 2022-23

Now is the time to submit a student application if you intend for your child to begin Kindergarten in the fall of 2022. We offer early enrollment to parents of current Pre-K students and siblings of New Covenant students in other grades. Until **December 1, 2021**, your application for a sibling or Kindergarten student will receive priority in our admissions process. Application is easy. Simply visit our website at www.newcovenantschools.org and select the "Apply Here" button at the top of the page. From there, you can open an account for your student, and once it is saved you can come and go as you please.

If you would like to learn more about our K-12 program, please contact **Linda Simon** at lsimon@newcovenantschools.org about scheduling a tour. Tours are held each Thursday at 9:15am and registration is required.

PRE-K 2022-23

If you have a child who will be 4 years old by the first day of the 2022-23 school year, they are eligible for our Pre-K program. Simply visit our website at www.newcovenantschools.org and select the

"Apply Here" button at the top of the page. Our Pre-K is a very small class and fills quickly. Current families have preference until **November 1**. After this date all applications will be considered, and openings are not guaranteed.

GENERATIONS DAY/EARLY DISMISSAL

We have rescheduled Generations Day for **March 11**. However, **PreK-8th grades** will still be having an **11:30am dismissal this Friday, September 24**. **The School of Rhetoric will be having a full day with the normal 3:00pm dismissal.**

DC TRIP

The School of Rhetoric will be taking their annual trip to Washington DC on **Thursday, September 30 - Friday, October 1**. Watch your email for more information regarding this overnight trip.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Parents of students in K-8th grade are invited to bring household pets for a blessing from **Rev. Morse** or **Rev. Heaton** on **Friday, October 1**. Plan to arrive around **2:10pm** and bring your leashed or caged pet to the bell tower - no need to come inside.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Parents should have received an email from TSS Photography with their student's school photo from picture day. If you did not receive an email, and after checking your junk folder you are still unable to locate an email from TSS, please contact **Naomi Hostetler** at nhostetler@newcovenantschools.org.

THANK YOU!

89 families have linked their **KROGER** card to New Covenant Schools. As a result, those families have earned \$576.89 for New Covenant from June 1 to August 31 just by shopping! We would encourage all our families and their

relatives to join this program. To do so, simply visit www.kroger.com to create an account or sign in, select my account, then community rewards. Our organization code is IX901.

Any time your child will be absent from school, please send an email to ncsoffice@newcovenantschools.org indicating the reason for their absence.



SoR students raise the American flag to start the day at NCS.

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school supplies. They are going to forget something at some point.

I'm not against a parent bringing a forgotten item to school occasionally. What I want to challenge is the chronic forgetfulness that some students exhibit, and that some parents enable. Those are the ones who should read the sign in the photo more carefully. Bailing out your child occasionally is okay, but parents should not be on the leash to a child who requests his daily phone call at the front desk an hour after arriving to school.

In a school our size a steady stream of parents who ask the volunteer/staff person at the lobby desk to "get this item to my child in "x" grade" shifts a burden of responsibility away from the student and unnecessarily to another adult. Let the chronically forgetful child miss a meal, sit out a practice, or get the natural consequence of his forgetfulness. That

may happen once or twice. Most kids will fix the root problem quickly, if, when you are called to bring the violin, you just say "No." Start now to teach personal responsibility in ways that are neither devastating nor harmful. That's what childhood is for.

On a similar note, our staff will better serve everyone if parents avoid certain other demands. For example, if you're sitting in the pick-up line at 2:50 pm, that's not a good time to call the front desk to a) ask that your child be ushered out early; b) remind your child to bring home an item; or c) send a message to him. By the same token, older students should be reminded by their parents that it's the students' job to get themselves out to pick-up. It is not staff's job to page each child who has somehow failed to get outside by the time you arrive. You have a right to insist that your student pack himself up

and get to your car in a timely fashion. Teachers let their classes out on time, so if your student doesn't arrive outside, it's likely due to the fact that he's looking for something in gym, the locker room or the hallway, or just visiting with friends.

School requires routines, and those routines start at home. Make sure your student has packed himself before going to bed. Have a checklist on the fridge so that he can double-check each morning. Develop habits with routines that are maintained with predictability. Everyone will be happier.



Great school routines start at home and make life smoother for all.

QUID NOVI

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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