



Seniors celebrate their Cotillion in downtown Lynchburg on Friday night.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

JANUARY 24, 2022
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CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Part 2 of a series by John Heaton, Headmaster

In our last QUID NOVI I discussed the rise of Christian schools in the last half of the 20th century. (If you missed it you can read it at the link below.¹) I pointed out that many of those schools were born out of segregationist tendencies, while nearly all of them were reacting to the social ferment that bloomed in the 1960s. Consequently, they often imported public school curriculum wholesale into the classroom, while offering chapel or religious instruction, giving them a veneer of religion. The “Christian” side of such a school was an additive not thoroughly thought through.

In the late 1980s a new generation of leadership began to rethink the idea of the Christian school. The noble goal of merely preserving religious piety in the young was having mixed results. The greater concern, however, was that neither students nor educators were thinking very “Christianly” at all about the

disciplines they undertook. Christianity had been restricted to the sphere of behaviors or particular practices—“Do this, but not that”—but for many had not been recognized as having implications for thought itself.

It was an *epistemic* crisis, an awakening to the fact that faith commitments (or denials) of any kind have far-reaching implications for how we view the world, and the subject matter of classroom studies. Christian practices are important, but discovering and harnessing the implications of Christian presuppositions was another project altogether. Ironically, this shift was already taking place in American universities with the 1962 publication of Thomas Kuhn’s *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Kuhn showed how thought paradigms determined certain outcomes, especially in science, and that exploding such paradigms gave rise to advances in

¹ <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/2022/01/10/christian-school-what-does-that-mean/>

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WHAT'S NEW?

Permanent Things Campaign Update

As we go to press this week we are pleased to announce that the Permanent Things Campaign has now surpassed the \$1,000,000 mark. This campaign is a ten-year effort to expand the chapel, provide two new classrooms and recreational facilities, and to retire remaining debt on the campus. Gifts for the chapel, which was the first-tier project, exceeded original expectations, and the dedication took place last December. Your response to our appeal for the second-tier project—the classroom addition—continues to encourage us (see the chart on page 5). To date, we have received over \$460,000 in gifts and pledges. We hope to be fully funded by the end of the first quarter of this year. Moreover, several gifts have been made to the third tier of the campaign, which is the retirement of debt. We thank everyone who has responded, as we seek to establish the “Permanent Things” at New Covenant Schools.

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

HONORS FOR 2ND QUARTER 2021-2022

SCHOOLS OF RHETORIC AND DIALECTIC

THE HEADMASTER'S LIST

Summa cum laude

Brie Olson, 12	Ellie Walker, 12	Saige Knapton, 12	Madeline Duncan, 12
Josie Scruggs, 12	Lydia Craven, 11	Jenna Hackenbracht, 11	Jael Brenning, 11
Kaden Newsome, 11	Will Kittrell, 11	Beau Brady, 10	Alina Cai, 10
Noah Caldwell, 10	Nicole Clark, 10	Adora Hampton, 10	Saria Hostetler, 10
Caleb McCormick, 10	Sarah Robert, 10	Olivia Kidd, 10	Mary Glenn Morse, 10
Virginia Morse, 10	Brielle Walker, 10	James Brophy, 9	Ellie Jacobs, 9
John Brophy, 9	Lizzie Bryant, 9	Jenna Ng, 9	Corey Hackenbracht, 9
Cora Helm, 9	John Scruggs, 9	Melia Leitner, 9	Mary Kate Place, 9
Jocelyn Walker, 9	Brey Welch, 9		

THE DEAN'S LIST

Magna cum laude

Michael Marotta, 12	Dalton Foster, 12	Gioia Calabretta, 12	Rylee Ames, 12
Skylar McCurley, 12	Jackson Taylor, 11	Nate Kirshberger, 11	Jude Vollmer, 11
Elizabeth Matney, 11	Rebekah Bryant, 11	Waylon Spiva, 11	Andrew Rogers, 10
Ally Horne, 10	Charlotte Seay, 10	Claire Copenhaver, 10	Elizabeth Deneen, 9
Noah McCormick, 9	Gigi Olson, 9	Jack Duncan, 9	Declund Stevenson, 9
Reese Murphy, 9	Emma Fritz, 9		

Cum laude

Anna Burton, 12	Makenzy Bates, 12	William Rooney, 12	Dylan Abaidoo, 11
Van Curran, 11	Elijah Higey, 11	Diego Leal, 10	Abby Rose, 10
Luke Libbey, 10	Irelyn Uminn, 10	Emily Trautman, 9	Abby Burton, 9
Grace Hendricksen, 9	Lucas Gorman, 9	Carrington Thackston, 9	Serah Montminy Jones, 9

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summa cum laude

Graden Bolton, 8	Andre Frenchik, 8	Luke Cordes, 8	Joel Ng, 7
Shilo Binder, 7	Emma Haupricht, 7	Charlotte McCarty, 7	Michael Seckman, 7
Luke Hottle, 7	Elora Williams, 7	Olivia Fries, 7	Ian Gill, 7
Ruby Helm, 7	Alex Fuhr, 7		

Magna cum laude

Micah Xayavong, 8	Wyatt Renalds, 8	Olivia Hostetler, 8	Walt Gill, 8
Sarah McCurley, 8	Ella Dudley, 8	Joseph Robert, 7	Christopher Moody, 7
Embry Carlton, 7	Charlotte Libbey, 7		

Cum laude

Alicia Kenny, 8	Grace Brady, 8	Joy Basten, 8	Ayla Gezen, 8
Rosa East, 8	Nicholas Richmond, 7	John-Paul Gauger, 7	Judah Weber, 8
Kylie Garnett, 7	Ignatius Knebel, 7		

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science. When his principles were applied outside of science in sociology, history, etc., the implications were dramatic.

Thus, unless Christian school advocates came to terms with the implications of their own Christian presuppositions, schools would be increasingly viewed as irrelevant, and even as silly as such things as “Christian” sewing, baseball leagues, cooking, rock concerts, and so on. Of course, much of American

Evangelical culture did exactly this—it moved to create a sort of parallel universe of human activity in which Christian young people had access to “Christian” versions of all sorts of things. Disney World might be fine, but a Christian theme park would be better.

Christian schools had to do better. They had to return to a distinctly Christian presupposition that the world was created

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E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT CONTRACT

In order to simplify reenrollment, you signed a Continuous Enrollment Contract for your child, which was the last contract that you will have to sign while your child is a student at New Covenant. **YOU WILL NOT BE ASKED TO REENROLL FOR NEXT YEAR.** Your student will be automatically enrolled each year until graduation or until you tell us otherwise. **The opt-out deadline for enrollment for the 2022-23 school year is February 1, 2022.** The Continuous Enrollment Fee of \$150 will be charged to your account on that date if you do not opt out. Please contact **Linda Hackenbracht** in the business office if your plans for next school year have changed.

SCHOOL CLOSING OR DELAY

All information regarding schoolwide closings or delays related to weather will be communicated via email as well as reported to ABC News 13 and their online closings list. A decision to close or delay school will be made by the Headmaster by 6:00am (sometimes earlier). If you are unable to get to school because of unplowed roads, your child's absence will be excused. Please note that our families and faculty are spread out over several counties; therefore our decision to delay or cancel may be based on conditions different from those you see outside your own home.

CUSTODIAL POSITION

We are still in need of a custodian for the Workman Field House, who cleans

and maintains the floors, storage and the Fitness Center. Training is offered and will involve 15 hours per week in the evenings. This position might be perfect for a local college student who wishes to be involved in the athletic world and needs only a part-time job. Please tell your friends or anyone you think might be interested. Contact Facilities Manager **Darren Johnson** at djohnson@newcovenantschools.org to apply.

THANK YOU

Over 100 of our family households participated in the Kroger community rewards program last quarter. New Covenant Schools was the recipient of \$736! Thank you to all who participated. To link your Kroger plus card with New Covenant Schools, visit www.kroger.com to create an account or sign in and choose community rewards. Our organization code is IX901.

WINTER BREAK

School will be closed for Winter Break from **Thursday, February 10** through **Tuesday, February 15**. Students return on **Wednesday, February 16**.

MOMS IN PRAYER

All moms are invited to this weekly meeting for a time of prayer. Come join us in this new year as we pray for our children and our school community. We meet **Wednesdays from 2-3pm** in the Marie Macdonald Chapel.

CHAPEL TALKS

All are invited to join **Headmaster Heaton** on **Wednesday, January 26** for the second lecture in a series of "Chapel Talks." Dinner is served at 5:30pm

followed by a short lecture and Evensong. Dinner and childcare are provided free of charge. We would love for you to join us! Sign up here if you plan on coming: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084BAFAB2CA3F58-chapel>.

GENERATIONS DAY

Grandparents and other special guests are invited to join students in class for Generations Day on **Friday, March 11**.



Middle School girls enjoy making smores at the fire pit during a retreat day of growing in friendship and virtue.



FROM THE NURSING STAFF

COVID PROTOCOL UPDATE: EO#2

Today Gov. Youngkin's Executive Order #2 goes into full effect. It essentially rescinds the previous administration's mandate on masks in K-12 school settings. You can read the full order here: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/74---eo/74---eo/EO-2---School-Mask-Mandate-Executive-Order-Exception.pdf/>.

We thank God that we have been able to remain open for in-person instruction in the midst of a pandemic since fall of 2020. Diligence and consideration on your part have helped to make this possible. We deeply appreciate your cooperation, your support, and most of all your prayers!

As this current surge in COVID-19 infections crests and falls, we will be relaxing mitigations. As of today, we will no longer require that masks be worn on school campus. However, we will honor mask-wearing on behalf of parents who ask that their children continue to be masked. If you have not done so already, please communicate your needs to the clinic at ncsnurses@newcovenantschools.org, and we will ensure that your children's teachers are made aware of your wishes.

In our school community: We have closely tracked vaccination status, history of disease infection, and presence of COVID antibodies in our students and faculty, and it is clear that our school has achieved a high level of immunity within our on-campus population. Therefore, we are no longer sending blanket notification emails whenever a COVID infection occurs within our student body. We will continue to notify families with immunocompromised members when we identify that their children may have been directly exposed to COVID while at school. Once more, if you have not yet made known your need for ongoing COVID exposure notifications, please contact us promptly and we will add you to our notifications list.

COVID rapid antigen tests are still available in the clinic for a fee of \$15 per test; however, insurance providers are now required to cover the cost of rapid tests purchased at pharmacies. Imminently, rapid tests will be widely available. Additionally, high-filtration respirators, such as N95s, are now easily acquired, and they are currently recommended for use by persons whose circumstances necessitate continued mask-wearing, as data indicates that the Omicron strain likely evades cloth or ill-fitting masks.

What you can do: The clinic staff is reiterating the importance of keeping sick children home until their symptoms have resolved or greatly improved, and they have been fever-free without the use of anti-pyretic medication for 24 hours. Children who have no symptoms of illness may continue to attend school regularly.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns. We are available to help you determine whether your child is well enough to attend school. Serving your children in the NCS clinic is our privilege, and we desire to keep them healthy.

Panache Presents

You Can't Take It With You

SHOW DATES

January 28 & 29

February 4 & 5

7:00pm

Adults \$10

Students \$7

Please call 847-8313
to reserve your seats



Naomi Johnson (1st Grade), 2021 Submission

ART FAIR

FRIDAY
March
4th

ALL submissions due
Wednesday February 9th

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR ART FAIR SUBMISSIONS:

- Students in K-12th grade may submit TWO PIECES of art in each of the above categories.
- Student work grades 4-12 will be in the judged art show.
- All submissions should be given directly to Mr. Dunaway.
- Flat (2D) submissions should NOT be folded or on lined paper.
- Submissions MUST be unframed.
- All photography should be printed on photo quality paper (preferably 8 1/2 x 11 or larger).
- Sculpture (3D) submissions should stand upright OR student should provide a base on which to stand the piece.
- Lego submissions will NOT be accepted.
- ALL pieces should be the creation of the student(s).
- Multiple students may collaborate on a single submission.

PAINTING
MIXED MEDIA
SCULPTURE
PHOTOGRAPHY
FILM

Parents who would like to volunteer to mat/hang work please contact Michael Dunaway mdunaway@newcovenantschools.org

PERMANENT THINGS CAMPAIGN
FINANCING PHASE IV: HOW WE REACH OUR 10-YEAR GOAL

\$1,065,795 RAISED TO DATE

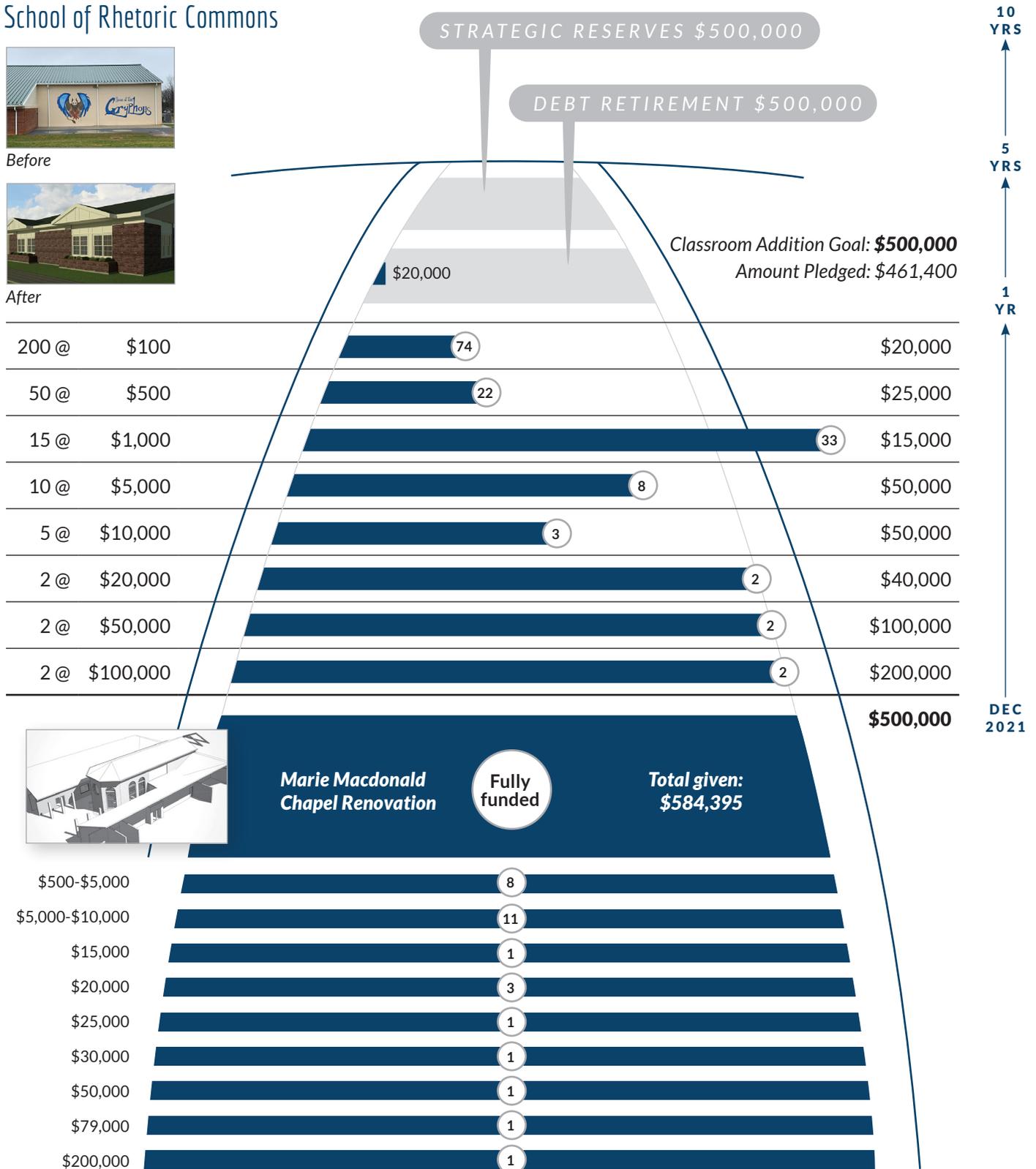
School of Rhetoric Commons



Before



After



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by a rational God, and the created order has a kind of givenness about it. It is first a gift that we receive with gratitude, a world that is good, and true and beautiful. Because it is created by God—not just a god—but the One who is revealed in the Old and New Testaments, it takes on a particular shape, a particular meaning, and a particular goal, the large contours of which are revealed in the Scriptures themselves.

Thus, from the Christian point of view, there are no brute facts. There are no neutral facts. All facts have God-assigned meaning because they exist and are sustained by the word of his power. After all, it's his world, and he made it. Science therefore is truly possible because the world is observable, stable, predictable, and can be subjected to investigative experimentation. It is not the result of random, unguided and impersonal forces. If that were the case, true science would be impossible.

History is not a collection of unrelated and atomized data points. Rather, history itself must be approached within the framework of an interpretive

field in which cause and effect, meaning and purpose, may be evaluated—if not completely understood—in light of the divine purposes the Creator intends for it.

“Christian” literature is not a tale set in a religious context. Rather, great literature is that which honestly observes human nature, the human condition, real goodness and beauty, and faithfully sets the narration in a context which amplifies and makes sense of the human experience. This is why classical literature endures. Homer's Odyssey is not the product of Christian influences, but it is nevertheless great because it deals honestly with the real human questions of identity and purpose, home and hearth. It explores the human virtues of fidelity, love, and friendship, and the vices of greed, lust, and reckless foolishness. It is so “true” that we have kept it in the curriculum for 2,500 years.

Ultimately, Christian schools have begun to find better footing in the classical, Christian tradition, a topic we'll explore in the next edition of QUID NOVI.

QUID NOVI

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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