



First-graders reciting their history timeline on Generations Day, March 11.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

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## TEN YEARS OF GENEROSITY AND GOOD WORKS

by John Heaton, Headmaster

A school curriculum is like a movie set. When movies are made, everything in a scene is put there by the director on purpose; nothing is unintentional—a book on the shelf, a vase on the table, a picture on the wall. A school curriculum is the same way. Everything is there for a reason. The goals of the curriculum are realized through the books we choose to read, the papers we write and the specific projects we undertake. All of it is designed to encourage students to develop themselves in ways they might not choose if left to themselves.

Over the years we have developed what we call a portrait of a graduate. Extended reflection upon the lives of the many students we have graduated have yielded observations of common qualities we consistently see in our alumni. (You can see the portrait on our website.) One of those qualities is that a New Covenant graduate is generous and rich in good works. Learning to be “other-oriented” and to actively serve others is difficult to teach, and rarely happens by simply reading books. The way we cultivate this spirit through our curriculum is with faculty-student-parent service projects.

By the time our students graduate they will have participated in a number of projects that bring them into contact with their community, notably those who are most needy or vulnerable. The most extensive project we undertake, however, is Hands & Hearts. This spring will mark the tenth year we have

mobilized for this effort. The hallmark of the project is that we are able to bring the strength of many hands and hearts to bear on a local organization in Lynchburg and accomplish a remarkable amount of work. With a student body of nearly 450, in addition to faculty and parent volunteers, we can put more than 500 people in the field for a day of service to multiple organizations and campuses.

The results are often dramatic. We deploy pressure washers, rakes, shovels, power tools, wheel barrows, paint brushes and rollers, mowers, and even tractors and bush hogs. Organizations are often initially skeptical of our students’ abilities. After all, who wants a bunch of students standing around all day getting in the way of daily operations? By the time our students are finished, however, minds are permanently changed. Not only do the students work hard, but they are polite and friendly to the staff members



of the agencies they serve. Massive amounts of work that could cost thousands of dollars from an operating budget is performed in a single day. When your family participates financially in the project, you enable us not only to do the work, but to provide materials at little or no charge to those who receive our help.

Not surprisingly, we never fail to receive positive reviews, the strongest of which is found in the subsequent invitations to repeat the service

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# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

### APRIL LUNCH ORDERING

**TODAY** is the last day to order school lunches for April. Place your orders without delay if you haven't done so already. Note that many field trips occur in April. Check your child's schedule to avoid ordering on those days. However, if you have ordered on a field trip day, your order will be canceled and credited to your account. For students who preordered milk for the year, the \$30 due for the 4th quarter will be billed to your lunch account.

### MOMS' NIGHT OUT

Join us for a Moms' Night Out of pampering **this Friday, March 25 at 5:30pm**. Come relax, enjoy delicious food and get to know other moms at NCS. The cost for the evening is \$20 and will be charged to your FACTS account. Reserve your spot here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084BAFAB2CA3F58-moms>. The deadline to sign up is **Wednesday, March 23**.

### REPORT CARDS

Parents will receive an email with a link to view student report cards **this Friday, March 25**.

### LOST AND FOUND

Please take time to check the Lost and Found this week as it will be purged **this Friday, March 25**. Remaining items will be donated to charity or the school store.

## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

### PING-PONG TOURNAMENT

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to stay after school for Ping Pong **this Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:30pm**. Whether you want to challenge another experienced player or want to learn how to play, all are welcome.



*Juniors Jenna Hackenbrach and Will Kittrell face off in a history debate in Mrs. Ballanger's class.*

### DIRECTOR OF PARENT RELATIONS JOB OPENING

**Naomi Hostetler**, current Director of Parent Relations, will be stepping down next year to devote more time to her family and other responsibilities. We will miss her smiling face and helpful spirit when working with our families. We are looking for someone to fill her shoes. The Director of Parent Relations serves in the context of admissions and development. Qualifications include someone who has exceptional personal skills, and the ability to respond to routine questions and resolve routine problems. The DPR must also be comfortable speaking in small public settings on behalf of the school (orientation/ placement meetings, etc.) where parents are present. This position is part-time and works well for someone who desires flexible hours. If you are interested in finding out more information, contact **Linda Simon** at [lsimon@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:lsimon@newcovenantschools.org).

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the following year. The Salvation Army, Rush Homes, The ARC of Virginia, and Lynchburg Grows are just a few of the groups that ask us to return year after year. Students have left their mark over and over again by mulching flower beds, painting dorms, offices and gymnasiums, renovating food banks, and pressure washing buildings and sidewalks, clearing brush and eradicating weeds.

One the best outcomes, however, is the way it changes our students. First, it makes them aware of various ministries in their community and the services they



provide. Second, by offering focused labor and materials, our students see how much they can bless those they serve. Third, because they work side by side with faculty and parents, they strengthen relationships with teachers and adults as they learn to be generous and rich in good works through hands-on experiences.

This year Hands & Hearts will be serving a wide number of organizations.

FUNDRAISING REPORT			
	GOAL	PREVIOUSLY	THIS WEEK
Hands & Hearts	\$40,000	\$2,020	\$17,580

We'll be repeating our service to The Salvation Army, Rush Homes, The ARC of Central VA, Camp Kum-Ba-Yah, and Lynchburg Grows, Compassion Church (formerly Lynchburg First Church of the Nazarene), and Patrick Henry Family Services. The service date is **Wednesday, April 13**, and we invite you, our parents to join us in generosity and good works.