

Senior Owen Helm clears
13.0 feet at the E.C. Glass
meet on Friday, March 25.



THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

MARCH 28, 2022
VOL. 24 NO. 23 MAJORIS

ELOQUENT IN THE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD: THE SENIOR THESIS PROJECT

By John Heaton, Headmaster

While the New Covenant curriculum includes many unique features spanning the grades, the most notable is the senior thesis project. The classical, Christian program of study is designed to develop a student's facility in the written and spoken word, a process which begins in the earliest years of kindergarten and grammar school.

The first step in developing writers and speakers is to quicken their minds by training the memory. Students memorize banks of information that include poems, fables, historical facts, Scripture, and historic speeches. These are routinely chanted together in the "white spaces" of a typical school day, or as recitations at the beginning of a class. The

process in the early years is built thoroughly so as to overcome stage fright before it even takes hold, as it does for so many of us. Surveys show that of all things American adults fear the most, speaking in front of a group ranks near the top. Not so with New Covenant students. From the earliest years, our students stand in front of their classes in a variety of contexts, presenting publicly and continuously. Before they leave grammar school, they already possess a confidence in public speaking that most adults would envy.

The second step in developing writers and speakers is to begin writing early and often. When I conduct tours of prospective parents, student

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WHAT'S NEW?

Hands & Hearts Food Drive

New Covenant will be collecting food and toiletry items for use at the Salvation Army during our Hands & Hearts event. Please consider donating the following items for our use:

- Peanut butter
- Ravioli - canned
- Canned meat - tuna, chicken, salmon

- Canned Corn
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Peas
- Cereal - Kix, Chex, Cheerios, Fruit Loops, etc.
- Small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion
- Small bars of soap
- Individual toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

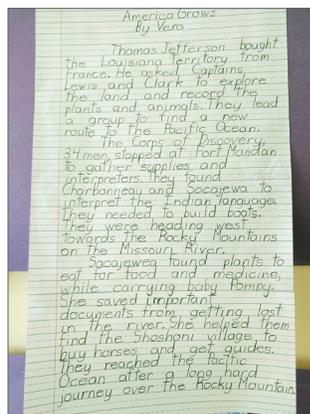
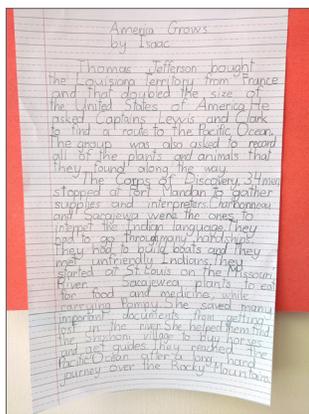
Please bring your items to the collection site in the front lobby beginning tomorrow through **Tuesday, April 12**. Everything donated will be taken to the Salvation Army and processed by our students during Hands & Hearts. It will be well used by those in our community.

H O N O R A R I A

SENIOR THESIS TITLES

- **Rylee Ames**, "A Nazi at the Door: Addressing the Justification of Lying to Save a Life"
- **Makenzy Bates**, "For the Greater Good: Different Eugenic Movements and their Ties to Scientism and Nationalism"
- **Anna Burton**, "Depression: The Epidemic of Overprescription and the Overuse of Antidepressants without Regard to Holistic Approaches"
- **Gioia Calabretta**, "There is No 'There' There: An Examination of New Urbanism"
- **Madeline Duncan**, "The Nose Knows! Or Does It? How the Abilities of Dogs are Beneficial to Human Life"
- **Dalton Foster**, "Keeping Our Roots and Our Guns: A Historical Argument on the Right to Keep and Bear Arms in the Second Amendment"
- **Owen Helm**, "Smooth Operator: A Discussion of Imperialism in Africa and its Newest Recruit"
- **Saige Knapton**, "International Adoption, Helpful or Harmful: The Issues and Policies of the International Adoption System"
- **Caroline Marotta**, "Inherited Genetic Diseases, Are They an Easy Fix? The Use of CRISPR-Cas9 to Alter Genetics"
- **Jack Marotta**, "How'd We Get Here: An Examination of Intelligent Design and its Opposing Views"
- **Michael Marotta**, "The Technology Strikes Back: The Unintended Consequences of Technology and its Effects on the Human Brain"
- **Skylar McCurley**, "Test Tube Babies: The Christian Ethics Behind In Vitro Fertilization"
- **Brie Olson**, "The Importance of the Thin Blue Line: Why Backlash on the Police Force in America Harms Society"
- **Sophie Redmond**, "I Don't Want to Go to School: Motivation Tactics and the Decline of Desiring Education"
- **William Rooney**, "Leading in War and Peace: An Analysis of the Leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte"
- **Josie Scruggs**, "Animal Assisted Therapy: Why the Continuation of Animal Assisted Therapy Should be Supported"
- **Will Spruill**, "The Perfect Utopia: What is Wrong with a Perfect Society?"
- **Elise Uminn**, "The Mental Prison: Why PTSD is Found in Prisoners and How We Can Change Our System"
- **Ellie Walker**, "The Reality of Holistic Healing: The Benefits of Choosing a Non-Toxic, Alternative Approach to Cancer Treatment"

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writing is usually on full display in the hallways. When I break the news to guests that the full-page manuscripts they are encountering are the work of second

graders, I am often met with slack jaws of disbelief. At this level the writing may be simple copy work emphasizing penmanship, but because writing is taught to a standard, the difference between students is negligible—they are nearly identical in letter formation—nearly indistinguishable.

By the time students begin middle school, they have not only learned to read with comprehension, but they have also begun to explore the components necessary to write a credible

plot summary, a skill that is essential to writing a full book report. Students are regularly required to write about their reading in structured ways, culminating in a research paper produced in 8th grade. Each step of the project is supported with specific rubrics designed to "scaffold" the students and develop writing habits that they will take forward into high school. The writing projects are also accompanied by oral presentations, which students make with the support of their own written note cards. Again, the cure to stage fright is repetition and the presence of content at the fingertips. Confidence in speaking begins with a message to deliver! Written reports across the

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E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

We are past the deadline to complete your student's online packet. Simply go into your Renweb parent account to complete. The original email with directions was sent **March 7**.

EASTER BREAK

School will be **dismissed at noon on Thursday, April 14**. This begins our Easter Break from **April 15-18**. Students return and school resumes on **Tuesday, April 19**.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN PORTRAITS

TSS Photography will be on campus on **April 7** to take pictures of our Kindergarten graduates.



MASTER CALENDAR

Did you know you can subscribe to the New Covenant Master Calendar on your smartphone? There are several ways to do so. From our website, click **My NCS>Events Calendar** and scroll to the bottom of the calendar and click **+Export Events**. Alternately, you can subscribe from your Renweb Family Portal account: click **Calendar>Subscribe** and select all desired calendars. Highlight the displayed URL, copy, and paste into your preferred calendar application. Click **OK** to exit the dialog.

ATHLETIC CALENDAR

Does your student play in a sport

here at New Covenant? All games are posted at <https://newcovenantathletics.org/main/calendar/>. This is your most up-to-date source for game times and team schedules. You can even subscribe to your student's team calendar. For example, if your daughter is playing soccer this spring, click **Spring>Soccer>Girls Varsity** to view her full schedule. To subscribe on your smartphone, click **Subscribe**. Highlight the displayed URL, copy, and paste into your preferred calendar application. (Note that you do need to create an account and sign in prior to subscribing.)



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	PREVIOUSLY	THIS WEEK
Hands & Hearts	\$40,000	\$17,580	\$17,900

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curriculum, from English to Science, are not the only venues in which students can test their abilities. By late middle school, even formal assessments will have a writing component that requires students to express themselves clearly.

Finally, as students enter the high school years they begin the study of rhetoric, which builds upon the classical models of writing which students have learned in earlier grades. Under

the guidance and expertise of their instructors they work systematically through the five canons (rules) of rhetoric. This begins with Invention, the process of conceiving material for exposition or argument. As youngsters they were reciting material from others. Now they must form their own thoughts. In the senior thesis project, students must choose a debatable topic, research the matter, and "invent" the arguments that

they will use to defend a point of view. This part of the process occupies students through the fall of the senior year and culminates in a first draft.

The next rhetorical canon or rule is that of Arrangement, the process of ordering material in a coherent manner, observing sequence and structure. Understanding a topic thoroughly enough to sustain a lengthy argument requires writing skill which, outside of classical

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schooling, most students are never asked to develop. They must learn which kinds of evidence can be used to support a particular claim, and Arrangement helps them order their thinking logically and persuasively.

The third rule is that of Elocution or Style. This pertains to the vocabulary, metaphors, comparisons, and conventions that express their thoughts. It is style that often determines a writer or speaker's effectiveness in making a point in the written and spoken word.

The fourth rule is that of Memory, the practice of committing one's thoughts substantially to memory, so that in presentation they are fluid and practiced. After more than a decade of training in the habits of memory, knowing the major features of a senior thesis by heart comes rather naturally to our high school seniors.

The final step in the rhetorical

process is that of Delivery, the moment in which students take the platform and present their ideas. The writing and speaking process at New Covenant is comprehensive and central to the program. Its most unique and abiding feature is the senior thesis, the capstone project of the New Covenant career, in which students research, write and present a significant paper on a debatable topic, usually involving what we refer to as a "great question."

This week the high school schedule will pause for two "Thesis Days" as our seniors take turns presenting before their advisors, faculty members, parents and peers. We invite you to examine the thesis titles in this week's QUID NOVI. Most importantly, we urge you to a greater appreciation for classical education, in which students become eloquent in the written and spoken word.

QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASS OF 2022 • Amy Bonebright
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Nancy Hall • Kristin Hampton • Sam Mizener
• Tom Rogers • Anne Umbarger • Darryl
Whitesell • CLASS OF 2024 • Mike Lovell

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

HONORS FOR 3RD QUARTER 2021-2022

SCHOOLS OF RHETORIC AND DIALECTIC

THE HEADMASTER'S LIST

Summa cum laude

Brie Olson, 12	Ellie Walker, 12	Madeline Duncan, 12	Gioia Calabretta, 12
Saige Knapton, 12	Josie Scruggs, 12	Dalton Foster, 12	Rylee Ames, 12
Lydia Craven, 11	Jenna Hackenbracht, 11	Will Kittrell, 11	Kaden Newsome, 11
Jude Vollmer, 11	Beau Brady, 10	Alina Cai, 10	Noah Caldwell, 10
Nicole Clark, 10	Saria Hostetler, 10	Olivia Kidd, 10	Caleb McCormick, 10
Mary Glenn Morse, 10	Sarah Robert, 10	Andrew Rogers, 10	Abby Rose, 10
Brielle Walker, 10	James Brophy, 9	John Brophy, 9	Corey Hackenbracht, 9
Cora Helm, 9	Ellie Jacobs, 9	Melia Leitner, 9	Noah McCormick, 9
Reese Murphy, 9	Jenna Ng, 9	John Scruggs, 9	Declund Stevenson, 9
Jocelyn Walker, 9	Brey Welch, 9		

THE DEAN'S LIST

Magna cum laude

Skylar McCurley, 12	Michael Marotta, 12	Makenzy Bates, 12	Dylan Abaidoo, 11
Jael Brenning, 11	Nate Kirshberger, 11	Rebekah Bryant, 11	Waylon Spiva, 11
Adora Hampton, 10	Ally Horne, 10	Diego Leal, 10	Charlotte Seay, 10
Lizzie Bryant, 9	Elizabeth Deneen, 9	Jack Duncan, 9	Grace Hendricksen, 9
Emma Fritz, 9	Mary Kate Place, 9		

Cum laude

Owen Helm, 12	Anna Burton, 12	William Rooney, 12	Sophie Redmond, 12
Elise Uminn, 12	Van Curran, 11	Jackson Taylor, 11	Jonathan Matney, 11
Abigail Place, 11	Elizabeth Matney, 11	Emie Freerksen, 10	Colin Mather, 10
Kate McCurley, 10	Mae Jacobs, 10	Luke Libbey, 10	Nash Watson, 10
Gigi Olson, 9	Abby Burton, 9	Serah Montminy Jones, 9	Graham Kowalski, 9
Kamrin Hite, 9			

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summa cum laude

Graden Bolton, 8	Joel Ng, 7	Shilo Binder, 7	Charlotte McCarty, 7
Emma Haupricht, 7	Joseph Robert, 7	Elora Williams, 7	Ian Gill, 7

Magna cum laude

Andre Frenchik, 8	Luke Cordes, 8	Walt Gill, 8	Olivia Hostetler, 8
Micah Xayavong, 8	Luke Hottle, 7	Michael Seckman, 7	Ruby Helm, 7
Charlotte Libbey, 7			

Cum laude

Alicia Kenny, 8	Wyatt Renalds, 8	Olivia Fries, 7	Alex Fuhr, 7
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