



Grammar School poetry finalists on Friday delighted all with their recitations, costumes and performances.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

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## THE SECRET SAUCE: WHAT MAKES NEW COVENANT UNIQUE?

by John Heaton, Headmaster

There are several factors that make New Covenant unique among schools. We could point to the classical, Christian tradition from which the curriculum has been deeply shaped. While that is a key factor, it doesn't completely explain the culture of the school. There are two other things that should be considered. Our consultants at Independent School Management (ISM) have conducted longitudinal research to determine the factors that contribute most powerfully to student success and well-being. With data from more than 4,000 schools they have found incontrovertibly that the biggest

drivers in student success are predictability and support. Put simply, this refers to clear expectations compassionately delivered. We can think of these factors as the two rails on which a train runs. The rails are not the main thing, the train is, so these two "rails" are carefully maintained in our school.

The value of a well-ordered school cannot be overstated. Children thrive when they have routines that are clear and consistent, and a school culture that is structured provides the framework for the most freedom. When you walk the halls of the school you will see children on task, teacher-

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### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Save the Date!



Attention dads of New Covenant Schools! This year's annual Men's Retreat will be held **November 4-5** at Bold Branch Farm in Bedford. Headmaster Heaton invites all men to bring your camping equipment and join him for a weekend full of outdoor activities including fishing, cornhole, skeet shooting, conversation around the bonfire, and good food from the grill. The event will begin on Friday afternoon and conclude Saturday afternoon. Bring your tents, hammocks, and even your campers to spend the night under the stars. You will not want to miss this relaxing time at the farm. Mark your calendars now and watch for more details.



THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

# H O N O R A R I A

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL POERTY RECITAL WINNERS

### KINDERGARTEN

Addison Jay: "Grandma's Spectacles," a Mother Goose rhyme

### 1ST GRADE

Bree Lentz: "Lullaby" by Eliza Lee Follen

### 2ND GRADE

Noelle Deyo: "On Prayer"  
by Eliza Lee Follen (*and*  
*Jefferson Cup for Lower*  
*Grammar*)



Noelle Deyo

### 3RD GRADE

Nolan Lentz: "Dirty Jim" by  
Jane Taylor (*and Jefferson*  
*Cup for Upper Grammar*)



Nolan Lentz

### 4TH GRADE

Ella Dunaway: "The Sower"  
by William Cowper



## ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY —NO INFLATION HERE!!!



It's time to order yearbooks for 2022-23.

Your groceries may be more expensive, but our yearbook price will remain the same as last year! The first yearbook will be \$45 and additional yearbooks will be only \$30! **Our experience proves that the majority of parents appreciate when we automatically order one yearbook per family.**

**However, you may opt out of ordering a yearbook.** Please email **April Andrade** at [aandrade@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:aandrade@newcovenantschools.org) if you **DO NOT** want to receive a yearbook this year.

If we do not hear from you before **October 15th**, your FACTS account will be charged \$45 for your family yearbook.

If you want additional yearbooks, we will do the ordering for you through the end of October. Please check your email for a Signup Genius where you can request to purchase additional yearbooks. After **October 31st**, additional books will be \$50 and must be ordered directly from Herff Jones.

## NCS STUDENT & FACULTY PARTICIPANTS VIRGINIA 10 MILER AND 4+ MILER

### 4+ Miler (4.4 miles)

Coach **Chris Deneen** ..... 28:34  
6th Overall, 1st Place Male Masters,  
Grand Masters, and 50-54 Age Group

**Noah McCormick** ..... 31:58  
17th Overall, 4th in Male 15-19 Age  
Group

**Luke Ancona** ..... 33:51  
37th Overall, 3rd in Male 11-14 Age  
Group

**Colton Buckner** ..... 33:59  
41st Overall, 5th in Male 11-14 Age  
Group

**Max Fuhr** ..... 34:03  
42nd Overall, 6th in Male 11-14 Age  
Group

**Andre Frenchik** ..... 35:05  
51st Overall, 7th in Male 15-19 Age  
Group

**Kelly Hoskins** ..... 35:05  
52nd Overall, 10th in Male 11-14 Age  
Group

**Jesus Reinel Castaneda** ..... 37:47  
91st Overall, 2nd in Age Group

### 10 Miler

**Luke Cordes** ..... 1:13:38  
90th Overall, 2nd in Male 17-under Age  
Group

**Coach Spencer Ellingson** ..... 1:24:32  
249th Overall, 16th in Age Group

**Alex Fuhr** ..... 1:33:19  
437th Overall, 7th in Male 17-under  
Age Group

**Abby Rose** ..... 1:34:32  
458th Overall, 6th in Female 17-under  
Age Group

# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

### NCS GRYPHON GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Grammar School students often come to the garden to help weed, plant, and harvest different vegetables during the school year, and we'd love to have more ready parent hands to help when these classes visit. If you are interested in helping, please email **Jessica Simpkins** [jsimpkins@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:jsimpkins@newcovenantschools.org) to be added to the Garden Volunteers List. You will receive announcements of future workdays and needs of the garden.

### KINDERGARTEN 2023-24

Now is the time to submit a student application if you intend for your child to begin Kindergarten in the fall of 2023. We offer early enrollment to parents of current Pre-K students and new siblings of New Covenant students in other grades. Until **October 12, 2022**, your application for a new sibling or Kindergarten student will receive priority in our admissions process. Applying is easy. Simply visit our website [www.newcovenantschools.org](http://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 the account is saved you can log in and out without losing your information. If you would like to learn more, please contact **Linda Simon** at [lsimon@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:lsimon@newcovenantschools.org) about scheduling a tour. Tours are held each Thursday at 9:15am and registration is required.

### CUSTODIAL POSITION

NCS has a custodial position available for 3-4 hours in the evening Monday through Friday. If you are interested, please contact **Darren Johnson** at [djohnson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:djohnson@newcovenantschools.org) or 434-665-9574.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSED WORK

If your student is absent and needs to complete makeup work, please first check FACTS for assignments and then check for an email from the teacher with assignments. Next, come to school, sign in and go to your student's locker to get materials needed. Some students have locks on lockers, so please get the combination from your student or from the front office.

### 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 28 at 7:45am** to hear from our Director of Development on how these programs work. Reserve your spot through this link: [https://bit.ly/ncs\\_funding](https://bit.ly/ncs_funding)

## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

### GUIDANCE COFFEEHOUSE

Seniors and Juniors are invited to a James Madison University Coffeehouse on **Wednesday, October 5 at 12:45pm**. Learn more about the admissions process from the perspective of a large, in-state public college. Coffee and snack bar will be provided in L1. To reserve your spot, RSVP to **Mrs. Hester** [shester@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:shester@newcovenantschools.org) by this **Friday, September 30**.



## SPORTS SCORES



### Monday, September 19

#### JV TENNIS

New Covenant.....	8
Chatham Hall .....	0

#### MS VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	2
North Cross.....	1

### Tuesday, September 20

#### JR GRYPHON SOCCER

New Covenant.....	5
JRDS.....	1

#### MS SOCCER

New Covenant.....	2
JRDS.....	4

#### JV VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	0
Covenant .....	2

#### VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	0
Covenant .....	3

### Wednesday, September 21

**MS BOYS CROSS COUNTRY - 1ST PLACE**

**MS GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY - 2ND PLACE**

**V BOYS CROSS COUNTRY - 3RD PLACE**

**V GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY - 1ST PLACE**

### Thursday, September 22

#### MS SOCCER

New Covenant.....	1
North Cross.....	1

#### JR GRYPHON VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	0
Timberlake.....	2

#### MS VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	2
Timberlake.....	1

#### JV VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	0
Timberlake.....	2

#### VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	0
Timberlake.....	3

### Friday, September 23

#### JV VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	2
VES .....	0

#### VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	3
VES .....	0



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centered classrooms, and very happy students across the grades. There is an obvious freedom that seems to flourish, especially in the high school, where students in the commons busily work on their laptops with their lattes, their microwaves, and other comforts. Ours is a culture of students learning responsible behavior in an ordered but liberating environment. Because there is a culture of respect and trust between faculty and students, everyone enjoys an atmosphere of freedom unparalleled in most other schools.

#### **What do we mean by predictability?**

First, we mean that the “rule-reward” structure is strong, but also intelligible and fair from the student perspective. We measure this over time with student surveys, and the responses we get from fifth grade and higher consistently confirm that our teachers excel at modeling the values and communicating the expectations of our community. This leads to the second element, that faculty responses are consistent, fair, and accurate from the student perspective both academically and behaviorally. Students consistently tell us that they knew what would be on the test, or that certain behaviors were permitted or not. They generally know that faculty demonstrate an evenness in their application of rules, policies and procedures.

Predictability and support are vital in the parent relationship as well. It shows most clearly in the overall management of classrooms and communication. A parent whose child enters New Covenant in the first grade should have a consistent experience regardless of who is teaching which section. When a student moves to the second grade, the experience should



feel the same. Allowing for differences in giftedness from teacher to teacher, the transition from grade to grade should be largely monolithic, not wholly other. It is on this basis that we ask parents to refrain from

requesting a student’s teacher each year. All teachers at New Covenant are trained in our model of student culture, which yields a consistent classroom experience regardless of the personalities and gifts in play.

#### **What do we mean by support?**

A well-ordered school culture can be rigid if it is not accompanied by high levels of support. We define support for your child as an environment where students perceive that the entire faculty, administration, and coaching staffs genuinely seek the students’ success and work to achieve that success without inflated reinforcement. A large part of a teacher’s task is to give feedback constantly to students – feedback in regard to behavior, attitudes, character and academic performance. By definition a student could be made to feel overly scrutinized, unless he enjoyed the natural and pervasive sense of compassion and the teacher’s clear desire for conspicuous success. While reinforcement within a healthy community is accurate (“Samuel was caught cheating and will have to suffer the consequences”), accurate assessment is not contrary to compassionate delivery. Our teachers are constantly encouraged to be accurate and firm, yet speak with compassion, from the platform of a good relationship.

Building a strong and stable school culture allows us to make mistakes, fall short, or overcommit (we do!). The goal, however, is to learn from such episodes. A healthy community recognizes human frailty and supports its members through

the sometimes painful process of growth, and helps to create a willingness to try again, try harder, and improve. This is the secret in creating and maintaining the unique community that is New Covenant Schools.

### **NEW COVENANT MEN’S SOCCER RANKED 2ND IN THE STATE**

The rankings are out, and the Varsity Gryphons are ranked by the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA) at No. 2 in Division III soccer behind Walsingham School. With hundreds of schools in the VISAA, the Gryphons are showing a strong season, often with strong showings against Division II schools. This week will be a true test as the Gryphons are at No. 3 Eastern Mennonite on Thursday, and at home against No. 9 Veritas (Richmond) on Friday night. Come out for exciting soccer this week!



## **QUID NOVI**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Class of 2023 • Nancy Hall • Kristin Hampton • Sam Mizener • Tom Rogers  
Anne Umbarger • Darryl Whitesell • Class of 2024 • Mike Lovell • Class of 2025 • Neil Bohnert • Leslie Moeller • Bob Price  
Leland Seckman • Dan Vollmer

### **EX OFFICIO**

John Heaton–Headmaster  
Eric Parker–School Warden

### **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**