



Junior Gryphons soccer in action against James River Day School last week. Gryphons prevailed 8-1.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

OCTOBER 3, 2022
VOL. 25 NO. 7 MAJORIS

OPEN HOUSE FOR THE EPIC HALLWAY: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 4-6:30 PM

by John Heaton, Headmaster

This fall New Covenant began its thirty-second year, opening the fall term with 457 students. Not only have we begun in strength, but we have continued to enjoy the blessing of expanded facilities. As you know the Marie Macdonald Chapel was completed last year, and was dedicated into service in time for our students to use it in the spring. This week we will complete the expansion of two classrooms, which will serve our students in the School of Rhetoric. Both of these projects were made possible by the Permanent Things Campaign, which was enthusiastically supported by our parents and

friends. For your generosity, we thank you.

As an expression of our gratitude, I want to invite you to an Open House on **Tuesday, October 11 from 4:00pm to 6:30pm**. I want to give you a personal tour of the classrooms your contributions helped to build. There are two of them, along with a grand corridor we call the Epic Hallway. The hallway celebrates the greatest books in the classical tradition. These classrooms will serve as the core of our Literature Department, and every high school student will be served by them. They are spacious, well-lit, and appointed tastefully with plenty of technology and

continued on p.4

WHAT'S NEW?

Men's Retreat, November 4-5

New Covenant dads are cordially invited to a men's retreat this fall on **Friday-Saturday, November 4-5** at Bold Branch Farm in Bedford County. The retreat is designed to promote friendship and fellowship among fathers in our school community and to provide opportunity to get to know our headmaster better. Participants will be camping on the farm, which consists of 130 acres of woods and fields and should therefore have tents and necessary gear. (If you need to share, we can accommodate!)

There is a cabin on site with full facilities in the basement. A steering committee has been formed to ensure that we have terrific meals, recreation, and other activities. Firearms are permitted, and there is a shooting range on site for pistols, long guns, and skeet shooting. The cost for the weekend is \$20 to cover food expenses and will be charged to your FACTS account. Follow this link to sign up: https://bit.ly/mens_retreat



H O N O R A R I A

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

If you like Headmaster Heaton's dog, Luna, you're going to love the Blessing of the Animals. Each year on the first Friday of October we remember St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan order of monks. Legend remembers him for his spirituality, and for his notable love of nature. It has been a long tradition that his day be marked by the "Blessing of the Animals." Here's how it works: moms and dads should plan to bring the family pet to the school at 1:50pm for Grammar School students and 2:25pm for Middle School students. Each ceremony will last 30 minutes.

This year because of recent construction we'll gather at Pat's Pavilion at the WFH. No need to bring animals inside; just proceed to the pavilion. You can bring dogs, cats, ducks, hamsters, lizards,

chickens, fish or goats—just about anything! (We have had ponies in past years). The only requirements are that dogs be leashed, and cats and other animals that don't like crowds be housed in appropriate carriers. Students are free to bring any animal for which they are responsible as care-givers—no capturing frogs or crickets on site for the blessing! Dumpsters will be available for clean-up as necessary.

If this is your first year of association with the school, your pets and your children will love this event. Luna will see you there!



VOLLEYBALL ACHIEVEMENT

Adora Hampton, a Junior on the Varsity Volleyball team, eclipsed the 300-Kill milestone last week against Eastern Mennonite High School. Adora becomes just the third player in recorded NCS history to reach this goal and just the second to do so as a Junior. Adora will be honored by having her name placed on our volleyball banner in the Workman Field House. Congratulations to Adora on this fantastic achievement.



NEW COVENANT schools

GRYPHON GROWLER 1K & 3K AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022

The Gryphon Growler is back by popular demand! Whether you're challenging your classmates, guiding your children, racing your parents, or just in it for the stack of pancakes waiting at the finish line . . . this is an event built for the entire family!

- 9:00 3K Race 3rd Graders and older
- 9:30 1K Race 2nd Graders and younger
- 9:30 Pancake Breakfast begins
- 10:00 Awards ceremony
- Cost: \$10 per runner (includes breakfast)
\$5 pancakes only
\$30 max per family

Awards for top three males and females in following divisions: 2nd Grade and younger (1K); 3rd-5th Grade (3K); 6th-8th Grade (3K); 9th Grade and older (3K)

Proceeds go to support the NCS Varsity XC Team.

To register, click here: <https://bit.ly/GGrowler>

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

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 or 434-665-9574.

DRAMA DONATIONS NEEDED

The Drama Department is starting to gather materials for the spring play. This year we need old windows—especially windows of unusual shape and old stained-glass windows. Please contact **Mr. Roberts** at eroberts@newcovenantschools.org if you have any donations. Thank you!

END OF QUARTER

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, October 11**—the end of the 1st quarter. Report cards will soon follow and will be emailed to parents on **Friday, October 21**.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found bins are purged at the end of each quarter. Be sure to check for any lost items before **Tuesday, October 11**.

FALL BREAK

Students will have a **noon dismissal** on **Thursday, October 13**. There will be no school and the office will be closed for our fall break **Friday, October 14 - Monday, October 17**. Students return on **Tuesday, October 18**.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Parents of students in K-8th grade are invited to bring household pets for a blessing from Rev. Heaton on

Friday, October 7. Plan to arrive at Pat's Pavillion with your leashed or caged pet at 1:50pm for Grammar School students and 2:25 for Middle School students.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Your student's school photos are now available for ordering: Simply click on the links in the email sent by TSS Photography to view and order school photos. If you have not received your email, please check your junk/spam folder first and then email eolson@newcovenantschools.org. If your student was absent on picture day, retakes will be **Thursday, October 20** and they will be automatically scheduled.

LUNCHROOM VOLUNTEERS

The NCS lunchroom is seeking volunteers to help young students use the microwave to prepare their lunches and to serve pizza on Fridays. Help is needed at the microwaves on **Monday and Tuesday** each week from **11:20-1:05**. You may serve every week, every other week, or once a month. A volunteer is also needed **every other Friday** beginning **October 28** from **11:20-1:05** to help serve pizza. This is a great way to get to know the students and observe your child with his or her classmates. Parents and grandparents are welcome! Please contact **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org. All volunteers must complete a background check.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

DC TRIP

The School of Rhetoric will be going on their annual trip to Washington DC this **Thursday, October 6 - Friday, October 7**.



SPORTS SCORES

Monday, September 26

JV VOLLEYBALL	
Eastern Mennonite	0
New Covenant	2

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL	
Eastern Mennonite	0
New Covenant	3

VARSITY TENNIS	
New Covenant	9
Eastern Mennonite	0

MS SOCCER	
Temple	1
New Covenant	9

Tuesday, September 27

JV VOLLEYBALL	
SWVA	1
New Covenant	2

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL	
SWVA	0
New Covenant	3

VARSITY TENNIS	
New Covenant	6
Chatham Hall	3

Thursday, September 29

JR GRYPHON SOCCER	
JRDS	1
New Covenant	8

MS SOCCER	
JRDS	1
New Covenant	0

VARSITY SOCCER	
New Covenant	1
Eastern Mennonite	1

Friday, September 30

MS VOLLEYBALL	
Covenant	0
New Covenant	2

continued from p. 1

creature comforts. The appointments also celebrate the literature curriculum, which is anchored by the literary epics in the Western Tradition: *The Iliad*, the *Odyssey*, the *Aeneid*, *Beowulf*, *Inferno*, *Paradise Lost*, and *Moby Dick*. (Note: there are several athletic events occurring at the same time—soccer and volleyball—so you will have the opportunity to cheer on your Gryphons, too!)

The Permanent Things Campaign has been supported with gifting in excess of \$1.2M, and with it we have built all the spaces that are required for a fully subscribed student body of 450+/- students. That is to say, with current programming, we have all the classroom space we need, a situation that has been a long time coming. The construction was completely paid for with your gifts, and no debt was incurred as a result of the expansion. We are grateful to all who participated in this effort with

financial support. Every gift, large and small, contributed to the success we are enjoying today.

The Permanent Things Campaign will now enter into its third and final phase as we continue to raise \$500,000 dollars to speedily retire all of the remaining debt on our campus. We will also raise another \$500,000 to be placed in strategic reserves. Together, these two things will, humanly speaking, make the school “permanent.” This campaign will create a solid financial foundation that will ensure that the school continues to serve your family and those in the future, even when the economy is uncertain. This forward-facing vision has been set by the board of directors, who, as stewards of the school, are committed to the goal of maintaining New Covenant for students in generations to come.



Yearbook Wants Your Photos

Share your photos with the yearbook staff by directly uploading to the yearbook photo library.

From your desktop or mobile device go to the link below, use the code, fill in form info, and submit. Your photos may be used!

hjeshare.com/eShare/

Code: NCS1991

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 **any Wednesday during the month of October 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

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