



Headmaster Heaton blesses Charlie and Grady Rommel's beloved dog at the Blessing of the Animals last Friday.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

OCTOBER 10, 2022  
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## FACULTY CULTURE AND THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

by John Heaton, Headmaster

Every week I offer “walk-abouts” for prospective parents who are searching for the right school for their children. As we tour I talk about classical education and our curriculum, and comment on what we see from class to class. Perhaps you remember your own tour! As we move about the building, we rub shoulders with students in transition or happen upon seniors in the lounge, busy with whatever they have before them. Inevitably, one of the guests will comment about the student’s decorum, the order of the classrooms, and the sense that New Covenant maintains a culture of learning. Many

visitors perceive an intangible quality in the student experience, and they want to know how that has been achieved.

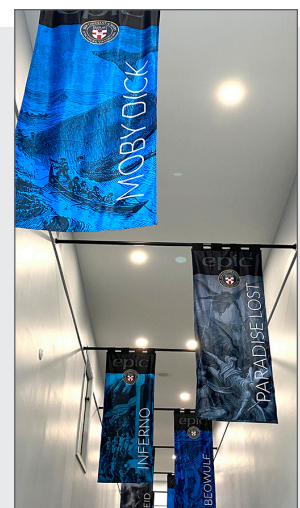
We have long understood that the student experience is a participation in the faculty culture. A healthy faculty is at the core of the school, carrying out our mission every hour of every day. The way that we promote a culture of learning is to promote a growth-focused faculty, meaning that professional growth and development is not merely a goal of our leadership team, but a cultural norm within the school. Faculty members who are growing and who

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### WHAT'S NEW?

#### *Epic Hallway Opens Today*

Today students in the School of Rhetoric moved into new classrooms in the Epic Hallway. The addition was long-planned to be added to the Workman Field House and has finally come to fruition. The finishing touches were put in place over the weekend with alumni **Jack Marotta** and **Michael Minnick** returning to help us put together desks and appoint the rooms. A short dedication ceremony will take place today at 6pm, and an Open House will be conducted Tuesday from 4pm-6:30pm, during which time you can take a tour of the new facility.



THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

# H O N O R A R I A



*Jackson Taylor*

## TAYLOR NOMINATED FOR DAR GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD

**S**enior **Jackson Taylor** is the recipient of the faculty and staff nomination for the James River Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizenship Award, a distinction of honor for his record of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.

Jackson has the privilege of participating in the related DAR essay contest, which includes the potential of earning a monetary merit scholarship at the district or national level. Congratulations, Jackson! We appreciate your patriotism and desire to serve your local community and country.

## 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>

# ETCETERA

## EVERYONE

### END OF QUARTER

Tomorrow, **Tuesday, October 11**, is the end of the 1st quarter. Report cards 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 tomorrow **Tuesday, October 11**.

### FALL BREAK

Students will have a noon dismissal this **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**.

### SCHOOL PHOTO RETAKES

If your student was absent on school picture day, they will automatically be scheduled for retakes on **Thursday, October 20**. If your student was present on picture day but you would like retakes please click [https://bit.ly/ncs\\_retakes2022](https://bit.ly/ncs_retakes2022) to sign up to be scheduled for retakes.

### NOVEMBER LUNCH ORDERING

It is time to order lunch for November. The ordering window closes **Friday, October 21**. For those of you who enrolled in the school milk program, the quarterly fee of \$35 will be charged to your Prepay Lunch Account in the coming weeks. Please contact **Debbie Williamson** with any questions at [dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org).

### 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. Please contact **Debbie Williamson** at [dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org).

[newcovenantschools.org](http://newcovenantschools.org). All volunteers must complete a background check.

### 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.

### PRE-K 2023-24

If you have a child who will be 4 years old by the first day of the 2023-24 school year, they are eligible for our Pre-K program. Simply visit our website at [www.newcovenantschools.org](http://www.newcovenantschools.org) and select the "Apply Here" button at the top of the page. Current families have preference until **this Wednesday October 12**. After this date all applications will be considered, and openings are not guaranteed.

### 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 through **this Wednesday October 12**. 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.

### MEN'S RETREAT

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 weekend will include good food, recreation, and camping. 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](https://bit.ly/mens_retreat).

## SPORTS SCORES



### Monday, October 3

<b>JV VOLLEYBALL</b>	
Roanoke Catholic .....	0
New Covenant .....	2

<b>VARSITY VOLLEYBALL</b>	
Roanoke Catholic .....	0
New Covenant .....	3

### Tuesday, October 4

<b>MS VOLLEYBALL</b>	
New Covenant .....	2
Lynchburg Patriots .....	0

<b>JV VOLLEYBALL</b>	
New Covenant .....	2
Lynchburg Patriots .....	0

<b>VARSITY VOLLEYBALL</b>	
New Covenant .....	3
Lynchburg Patriots .....	1

<b>VARSITY TENNIS</b>	
Covenant School .....	5
New Covenant .....	4

<b>VARSITY SOCCER</b>	
Carlisle .....	1
New Covenant .....	7

### Wednesday, October 5

MS Boys Cross Country – 1st Place  
MS Girls Cross Country – 1st Place

### Thursday, October 6

<b>MS VOLLEYBALL</b>	
New Covenant .....	2
SWVA .....	0



WE ARE LOOKING FOR a Middle School Boys Basketball coach for the upcoming season. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact **John Maynard** at [jmaynard@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:jmaynard@newcovenantschools.org).



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are pursuing their own learning, lead to a positive classroom experience. Lifelong learning is a very real value that we seek to demonstrate to students. The outcome is student achievement, satisfaction and enthusiasm for their school.

There are several ways I and my colleagues pursue this. First, we budget significant resources to fund faculty learning initiatives, and we make use of other grants as well. Together this adds up to thousands of dollars each year. Continuing education takes many forms. For example, all of our teachers are members of the Society for Classical Learning, a professional organization which provides ongoing education through conferences and online workshops. Many of our faculty members are enrolled in Classical U, where they take classes at their own pace. Four of our teachers are actively pursuing higher degrees in their fields and one is a

PhD candidate.

Second, we require that our teachers be engaged in on-going development. Not every teacher needs to go back to school for more education, but all must pursue a self-directed course of study in areas of interest that keep their skills sharp and their minds challenged.

Finally, we measure our efforts two times each year with a survey that takes a snapshot of the faculty culture. It's a profile instrument that allows us to reflect on how we believe our efforts provide predictability and support to our students. The results of the survey, proctored each fall and spring, are tabulated, and the results are shared and discussed in a faculty meeting. Through these efforts, we elevate the importance of growth and development in our own lives, knowing that our own enthusiasm for learning will overflow into our classrooms.



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## 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](https://bit.ly/ncs_funding)

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### 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