



THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS



SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

experience





“My time at New Covenant prepared me not only for my career, but also for my life as a whole. It helped instill into me a love to learn—learn more about myself, more about our world, more about my family, more about my career, and most importantly, more about my God.

Ryan Pickard
(Class of 2012)

WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL OF RHETORIC EXPERIENCE

The high school experience at New Covenant is unique, and we are pleased that you as a student or parent are taking the time for a closer look. Several factors are at work to make your high school experience one of the most rewarding decisions you will make in your life.

First, we're a small school with a big-school experience. With two sections of just 18 students—36 per grade—the School of Rhetoric rounds out at about 120 students. Far from having fewer friends, you will likely know more than 100 people by name. You'll know your teachers well, and more importantly, they will know you. Larger schools may promise limitless options, but many of those are accessible to only a small percentage of students. At New Covenant, if you want to participate in any offered activity, curricular or co-curricular, you'll have no trouble signing up. If you want to play a sport, the school will not recruit over you for students who are not part of our community.

Second, you will access the finest curriculum experience. The classical, Christian tradition is a "great books" and "great ideas" program. Classes are organized not just around lecture, but around debate, discussion, reading in community and hands-on projects, centering on the big ideas of life. We don't just teach you what to know. We teach you how to think for yourself.

Third, you'll enjoy unmatched freedom, attended by responsibility. The School of Rhetoric is not a post-middle-school experience. Rather, it is a pre-college experience. Our rules are relatively few, and students who take personal responsibility for their conduct find their day-to-day experience is one of great freedom. Access to the student lounge, the library, and other common spaces beyond the classroom gives you a sense of ownership and self-direction of your academic load simply not afforded in large, regimented schools.

Finally, the School of Rhetoric at New Covenant will be a school you'll be proud of. With first-class facilities, developed with an eye to beauty and to function, you'll enjoy a campus experience that is like none other. When you graduate from New Covenant, you will have earned a diploma that means something, and you will be prepared for the next opportunity in your life, whether that is college, university, vocational training, travel, or immediate work placement.

I hope you consider joining the student body at New Covenant Schools. A whole world is waiting for you right here in Lynchburg!



John Heaton
Headmaster



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The house system is an educational tradition that began in English boarding schools. Originally the “houses” were just the buildings where students lived, ate and socialized. Living together fostered camaraderie among students of the same house and competition caused each house to develop its own culture and traditions. Though we do not board students, these purposes remain—to foster a community of faith and learning that is marked by charity and celebrates excellence in all the various human capacities for which God has created us. These are an integral piece of our school’s mission to form young men and women of intellectual and moral virtue.

The New Covenant School of Rhetoric house system

1. Helps foster a cross-sectional school culture that breaks the stratification of grade levels and makes available perspectives and friendships in other grades;
2. Provides a forum to recognize and reward the diverse accomplishments of students as they earn points for their house via academic, athletic or artistic success;
3. Affords student leadership opportunities as each house is led by two House Heads;
4. Increases opportunity for student discipleship as each house has three faculty advisors who remain with that house from year to year;



5. Supports intramural competitions between the houses that challenge the athletic, intellectual, and artistic abilities of the students;
6. Honors the house with the most points at the end of the year with special recognition and perks throughout the following school year.

The four house names were carefully chosen to reflect our identity as a Classical, Christian school—we identify with Christ’s Church and we honor our past. We see ourselves as connected to a long tradition of faith that was anticipated by the ancients, was inaugurated by the early Church, was inhabited by the medievals, and persists with the moderns. Accordingly, our house names reflect four important centers of the Church throughout its history—Alexandria, Antioch, Canterbury and Wittenberg.

“The house system is a unique way to build relationships between grades that no other school in Lynchburg offers. It teaches team-building in a fun and competitive environment. I loved my time as a member of House Antioch.”

*Lausyn McBride
(Class of 2020)*



FINE ARTS

New Covenant, as a liberal arts school, understands that education is about the *formation* of the whole person. As such, we value not only our academic classes but also the arts, and this is reflected in the robust fine arts requirement that students must meet for graduation. While it is typical that schools *offer* opportunities in music, art and drama, New Covenant is unique in that it *requires* students to participate in each of these artistic endeavors, expanding their horizons in these various realms. This means, for example, that most students not only graduate reading English and Latin, but also with the ability to read music. Additionally, the arts are not limited to a club or to an after-school practice; rather, they are incorporated into the daily schedule.

The School of Rhetoric offers three musical groups—orchestra, band, and choir, each directed by a professional musician. The music program is performative in focus, giving the student multiple opportunities to play and/or sing before an audience. Specifically, the high school music program hosts two in-house concerts each year, performing for the student body. Also, in the spring semester each group wraps up the year at the annual evening spring concert for parents. And finally, in perhaps the most significant performance of the year, the school hosts the Annual Service of Lessons and Carols in which the combined choir, orchestra and band help lead the entire community through this Christmas tradition.

In addition, high school students are required to take at least one course in visual arts, which includes the media arts courses and graphic design. In the well-equipped art room, SOR students have the opportunity to receive instruction in drawing, painting and three-dimensional art, including working with clay on the pottery wheel. Additionally, in conjunction with the production of the annual yearbook, students can study the fundamentals of graphic design and gain practical computer skills in this area.

The drama program extends the opportunities even further, and every student chooses either to participate in a co-curricular play, or to register for one of two drama classes. The drama department is home to our thespian group we call *Panache*. The troop stages one major production each winter, and past performances have included everything from comedies to Shakespeare to popular Broadway musicals. The drama classes provide students the opportunity to experience the world of theater on a smaller scale, all the while learning the basics of acting, staging, blocking and basic tech support.

The arts at New Covenant not only offer the opportunity to acquire a lifelong skill that can follow the student in adulthood, they also are instrumental in elevating beauty to its rightful place alongside truth and goodness.



“*Truth, goodness and beauty are at the center of everything at New Covenant, and the fine arts are no exception. Whether capturing the majesty of God’s creation with paint or performing music, the arts provide an outlet to appreciate beauty alongside truth and goodness. The program impacted me by helping me discover the talents God has blessed me with and helped me hone my skills for His glory.*”

Stone Clark
(Class of 2021)

GRYPHON ATHLETICS



The School of Rhetoric offers substantial programming in athletics for men's and women's sports. With nine different seasons at the Junior Varsity and Varsity level (see chart), better than 90 percent of our high school students participate in co-curricular sports at some point in the school year.

New Covenant maintains high-quality athletic facilities including a practice gym, competition field house, fitness center and locker rooms, and a lighted natural grass soccer and lacrosse field.

New Covenant is a member of the Blue Ridge Athletic Conference, formerly the Virginia Independent School Conference (VIC - men's) and the Blue Ridge Conference (BRC - women's). Additionally, the school holds membership in the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA). Both conferences offer post-season tournament play, with school and individual athletic ranking.

Athletic achievement is recognized three times throughout the year with awards offered in each sport in school assemblies.

New Covenant athletic teams play regular conference games with schools throughout Central Virginia, and a number of non-conference games with local private and occasionally with public schools.

“Athletics at New Covenant helped me gain important leadership, discipline and teamwork skills. The positive and encouraging environment allowed me to grow athletically and foster meaningful relationships with coaches and teammates. I am thankful for all the cherished memories and experiences I had participating in athletics at New Covenant.

*Madeline Duncan
(Class of 2022)*

	MEN	WOMEN
Soccer	•	•
Volleyball		•
Cross Country	•	•
Basketball	•	•
Swimming	•	•
Lacrosse	•	
Track and Field	•	•
Tennis	•	•
Golf	•	



study-abroad PROGRAM

The study-abroad program extends the New Covenant experience far beyond the campus. Exposure to diverse cultures offers students a fresh understanding and appreciation of the education they are receiving at New Covenant and a more balanced view of our world. The following opportunities are offered on a rotating basis, each resulting in a week of travel to their respective various locations.

Cultures of Rome walks students through Italian history and art of the past two thousand years, with a focus on the ways these can be seen and experienced in the Rome of today.

A Tale of Two Cities: Paris and London provides a contrast between the two countries as we examine the conflicts between them and the different paths they took. Students also read Charles Dickens's classic, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

The **Marine Science** study program is truly a unique opportunity in Central Virginia—a scuba diving, live-aboard trip to the Bahamas. Students learn about major marine ecosystems and current environmental issues therein. Upon completion, students will earn their PADI scuba certificate!

Mission Nogales takes its place among the other trips as a way to encourage the faith of our students in practical acts of service as they work with others in a completely different cultural setting. Students are challenged to serve the poor and think deeply about what their Christian faith is calling them to do.

“The study-abroad programs allow you to apply everything that you have been learning in your Western Civ and literature classes. When we were touring Rome, we were able to say, ‘Oh, this is where this battle was; this is where this person lived.’ It becomes more than just a story and it brings it all to life.

*Delilah Tryall
(Class of 2014)*



J - T E R M

INSPIRING A CULTURE OF THE LIFELONG LEARNER

New Covenant offers a January Term (J-Term) for students in the School of Rhetoric. The J-Term is a unique opportunity to engage in an academic intensive period between the fall and spring terms. It provides for delight-driven pursuit of a wide variety of topics and experiences for the high school student.

Our goal is to foster lifelong learning. When you study with our faculty in the School of Rhetoric you become an active participant in the culture of the school. Our teachers are committed to inspiring in our students a love of learning. Because they are lifelong learners themselves, your relationship to them is potentially transformational. The J-Term provides a vehicle for teachers to expand their influence with students as they engage in these offerings, developed out of their unique passions, interests and abilities. Without being tied to a particular subject matter, we have invited our faculty to *think outside the box* and not worry about trying to merely supplement the current curriculum, but rather, to give way to what they love and what they would love to share with our students.

The J-Term courses are run as pass/fail—yes, that’s right, no grade is given. That doesn’t mean a student isn’t challenged, but we take grading off the table so that student and teacher stay centered on delight-driven study. By policy, students must complete a J-Term each year they are enrolled, and they will receive a quality point on their transcript for having done so.

Most J-Term courses are half-day, though a few may be full-day experiences. All students are required to attend

full days, so most students are enrolled in two courses during the J-Term. All regular classes, including fine arts classes, are suspended during these seven days. Students have a morning block for one course, followed by a sizable break/lunch and then finish with an afternoon block for the second course. This pattern holds for seven days, the length of the J-Term.

J-Term also allows and encourages student internships. These internships can be whole or half-days. Upperclassmen are especially encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to explore a range of professions before leaving high school.

Educational research, upon which we have long relied, unequivocally concludes the following—faculty culture drives student culture. That is, an inspired faculty inspires students. The J-Term provides a vehicle for teachers to expand their influence with students.

EXAMPLE OFFERINGS

Monsters in Literature
The Art of Debate: Lincoln-Douglas
Puzzling Under Pressure
Next Level Leadership: What Does it take to Lead People?
Home Ec. Revived – DIY
Famous SCOTUS Trials
Broadway Musicals
Non—Euclidean Geometry
Conversational Spanish
Augustine’s <i>Confessions</i>
Introduction to Software Development



ACADEMIC PROFILE

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS offers a classical, Christian education. Founded in the Anglican Tradition it is affiliated with the Reformed Episcopal Church. The curriculum is rooted in the liberal arts and is a college-bound program. Over ninety-five percent of our graduates have entered four-year colleges. Average standardized achievement test scores are consistently far above the national average with an overall SAT average of 1204 (Reading + Math).

The faculty is well-qualified, with more than three quarters of the SOR faculty holding the master's degree. Additionally, the faculty of the SOR has an average of over fifteen years of teaching experience.

Class sizes are limited to 18 and students receive a high level of personal attention and support. Literature classes challenge student with the great Epics of Western Culture. Classical languages (Latin and Greek), formal Rhetoric and Theology create a distinctive program.

Students are expected to use their acquired logic and rhetorical skills in all areas of the curriculum, to

think deeply and defend their positions rationally while answering questions of history, literature, religion, science, government and ethics, as well as in discussions of. The senior year is completed by researching, writing and defending a senior thesis before the faculty.

There is only one academic track throughout the school. All academic courses are taught at the honors level. Classes are graded on a percentage basis, with 60 as the lowest passing grade. Since our course of study is guided by the classical tradition, we do not teach the Advanced Placement curriculum in most classes (we do offer AP Calculus, AP Latin, and AP English Literature/Composition). We require 27 high school credits for graduation.

Grade point averages are based on a 5-point scale for AP, a 4.5-point scale for Honors, and a 4-point scale for non-academic courses. We record numeric grades for all courses but convert to the following grading scale for computation of the GPA:

A = 94-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	F = below 60
A- = 90-93	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66	
	B - = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62	

Mission Statement

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 School of Rhetoric, by the light of Christ and the power of the classical tradition, endeavors to form young men and women of intellectual and moral virtue, equipping them to live bravely for truth, goodness, and beauty.

School of Rhetoric

Graduation Requirements

New Covenant maintains a prescribed course of study in a classical curriculum. A minimum of 27 credits are required for graduation as prescribed below.

English	4.0 credits	Physical Education	1.0 credit
History/Government	3.0 credits	Music	1.0 credit
Mathematics	3.0 credits	Art	0.5 credit
Laboratory Science	3.0 credits	Drama	0.5 credit
Classical Language	3.0 credits	Elective Requirements	
Rhetoric	2.0 credits	Academic Electives	3.0 credits
Theology	2.0 credits	Fine Arts Elective	1.0 credit
		Total:	27 credits

Course Offerings

Literature

Western Literature I: *Odyssey, Aeneid and Antigone*
 Western Literature II: *Iliad, Inferno and Frankenstein*
 British Literature: *Beowulf, Paradise Lost and Persuasion*
 American Lit (AP): *Moby Dick, Scarlet Letter and Great Gatsby*

History

Western Civilization I: The Ancient Western World
 Western Civilization II: The Roman Empire to Napoleon
 US History: The Story of Representative Democracy
 Modern History: Ideas Have Consequences

Theology

Theology I: *Genesis, Gospel of John, Alister McGrath*
 Theology II: *Romans, Church History, Aquinas and C. S. Lewis*

Laboratory Sciences

Physics
 Chemistry
 Biology
 Environmental Science
 Universal Science (advanced concepts in Physics, Chemistry and Biology)

Rhetoric

Rhetoric: The Art of Persuasion
 Senior Thesis

Mathematics (Honors)

Geometry
 Algebra II
 Pre-Calculus
 Math for the Liberal Arts
 Statistics
 Calculus (AP)

Languages

Latin II: Latin Grammar and Roman Culture
 Latin III: Literature of the Late Republic
 Latin IV: Caesar
 Latin V (AP): Vergil
 Greek I: Introductory Biblical Greek
 Greek II: Advanced Grammar and Theology

Fine Arts (non-honors)

Chamber Orchestra
 Band
 Concert Choir
 Drama Performance
 Drama Appreciation
 Art Media I and II
 Graphic Design
 Art Independent Study

J-Term (non-honors)

Course offerings vary each year

Study Abroad (fee-based)

Cultures of Rome (Honors)
 A Tale of Two Cities: Paris and London (Honors)
 Marine Science (Honors)
 Mission Nogales (no academic credit)

Physical Education/Sports

Fitness/Wellness Course
 Soccer (men's & women's)
 Volleyball (women's)
 Cross-country (men's & women's)
 Basketball (men's & women's)
 Swimming (men's & women's)
 Track and Field (men's & women's)
 Lacrosse (men's)
 Tennis (men's & women's)

National Merit Scholars

Since 1996 New Covenant students have distinguished themselves by achieving superior scores on the PSAT exams, qualifying them for **National Merit Scholar Commendation** or **Finalist recognition**. During that time *nine* were chosen as **National Merit Scholarship Finalists** and *fourteen* students were named **Commended Scholars**.

AVERAGE SAT SCORES

<i>Class</i>	<i>Reading/Writing</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Total</i>
1996-2022	624	580	1204

College Placement & Acceptance (Revised 2023)

The following schools have accepted New Covenant students since its first graduation in 1996.

* Indicates that New Covenant alumni are currently attending these institutions.

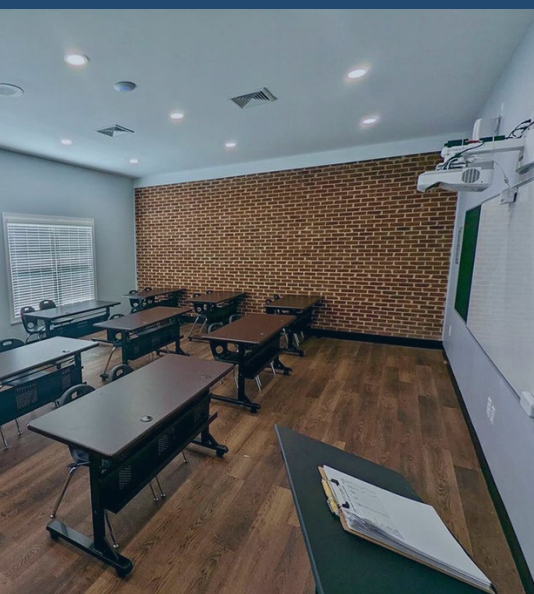
+Indicates that New Covenant alumni have graduated from these institutions.

Institutions in *italics* awarded New Covenant alumni significant merit scholarships.

American University
Anderson University
Appalachian State University
Asbury College+
Auburn University+
Barton College
Belhaven College+
Belmont University*+
Bethel College
Berry College+
Boyce College+
Bridgewater University+
Calvin College
Campbell University
Capital University
Catawba College
Cedarville University
Champlain College
Christopher Newport University*+
The Citadel
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
College of William and Mary*+
Colorado State University
Columbia International University+
Concord University
Covenant College*+
Cornell University+
Drexel University
Duke University+
East Carolina University
Eastern Mennonite University+
Elon University+
Embry-Riddle University
Emory and Henry College
Ferrum College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Tech (FIT)+
Fordham University
Furman University
Geneva College
George Mason University+
Georgetown University+
George Washington University
Gonzaga University
Gordon College+

Grove City College*+
Hampden-Sydney College+
Harding University*
High Point University*
Hillsdale College+
Hollins University+
Houston Baptist University
James Madison University*+
Jefferson College of Health Sciences+
Johns-Hopkins University+
Judson University
King College
Lee University
LeTourneau University+
Liberty University*+
Lincoln Christian University
Longwood University+
Louisiana State University+
Mars Hill University
Mary Baldwin College+
Messiah University
Mississippi State University
Montreat College+
North Carolina State University
Norwich University
Ohio State University
Old Dominion University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Patrick Henry College
Queens University of Charlotte
Radford University
Randolph College*+
Randolph-Macon College
Regent University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute+
Roanoke College
Samford University*
Savannah College of Art & Design+
Shenandoah University+
St. John's University
Sweetbriar College*
Texas Christian University+
The King's College+
Toccoa Falls College+
Tulane University
Union University
University of Alabama*

University of Colorado
University of Denver*
University of Florida
University of Georgia+
University of Lynchburg*+
University of Mary Washington+
University of Maryland
University of the Nations*
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina – Charlotte
University of North Carolina – Wilmington+
University of Pennsylvania
University of Richmond
University of South Carolina*+
University of Tennessee*
University of Virginia*+
U.S. Merchant Marines Academy*
U.S. Military Academy at West Point
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University+
Virginia Intermont College+
Virginia Military Institute+
Virginia Tech*+
Virginia Wesleyan University
Wabash College+
Wake Forest University+
Warren Wilson College
Washington & Lee University
Western Kentucky University+
Wingate University
Graduate Schools
Appalachian State University+
Covenant Theological Seminary+
Duke University School of Law+
East Carolina University+
Eastern Virginia Medical School+
Eastman School of Music+
Emory University School of Medicine+
Gordon-Conwell Seminary+
Medical College of Virginia+
Radford University+
Reformed Episcopal Seminary
Reformed Theological Seminary
University of Tennessee+
University of Virginia School of Medicine+
Virginia Commonwealth University+



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