



Grammar School students participating enthusiastically during last week's all-school pep rally.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

JANUARY 9, 2023
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COMPREHENSIVE TEST PROGRAM (CTP-5): WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

by John Heaton, Headmaster

Each year, just after our return from Christmas break, student in grades 2-9 take standardized tests from the Educational Records Bureau (ERB). The tests are called CTP-5, the fifth version of the Comprehensive Test Program. You might wonder why we invest the time for these assessments and what we can learn from the tests. Many of you want most of all to know how to prepare your student for these assessments.

First, the CTP5 is a test of achievement, a measure of what students have mastered, not a test of ability or "IQ". The test questions are

written by a committee of educators at the ERB. While the content is not a perfect match for what our classical and Christian curriculum emphasizes, it is a good one. For example, it includes subtests which measure verbal and mathematical reasoning, abilities we specifically target through logic, Latin and math classes. Rather than measuring a student's knowledge of exactly what we teach as our regular testing in school does, CTP gives us the opportunity to compare the performance of our students to the performance of other students on the same items. The parent guide you receive around the time of

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WHAT'S NEW?

Meet Hattie Eshleman

We are pleased to welcome **Hattie Eshleman** (class of 2013) to our faculty this semester. Taking the place of **Bethany Caswell** (class of 2012), who recently welcomed a new baby girl, Miss Eshleman will be joining the Middle School faculty as an instructor in Art and Bible. After finishing at New Covenant, she graduated from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art. She has experience as both a metals and painting instructor. Hattie also participated in the World Race Outreach program through Adventures in Missions. She traveled to 11 countries in 11 months partnering with local churches to support them in their ministries. In addition to her missionary support, Hattie left behind at least one mural on each continent she visited. Miss Eshleman is the sixth New Covenant alumnus to join the faculty. She brings a wealth of talents to our school and we are thankful to have her on board!



H O N O R A R I A

ALUMNI RETURN FOR HOMECOMING WEEKEND

by Katie Sakai, Director of Alumni Affairs

On Friday night, we joyfully welcomed our alumni home to New Covenant Schools. Approximately 50 graduates spanning the years of 2010-2022 joined us for a reception with the faculty. It was encouraging to hear the stories of what our alumni are pursuing in their studies, careers, and seasons of life. Some are adjusting to their freshman year of college in various states, while others are graduating and taking the next step in pursuing their passions, whether in medicine or industrial design. Still others are hard at work either in the corporate world,

running their own businesses, teaching students, or raising children of their own. After the reception, we cheered on our Gryphons in the Workman Field House as both the women's and men's basketball teams claimed victories. During halftime, the alumni competed against current students in a shooting game and New Covenant's mascot, Andy Gryphon, made an appearance to throw candy to the fans in the stands. We are always grateful to spend time with our alumni and we look forward to seeing them again soon!



Gioia Calabretta ('22), Madeline Duncan ('22), Janna Renalds ('21), Dalton Foster ('22), Thad Heaton ('21), Brandon Hostetler ('21), Chris Matney ('21), Stone Clark ('21).



Jack Marotta ('22), Owen Helm ('22), Wil Spruill ('22), William Rooney ('22).



Lausyn McBride ('20) and her fiancée (left), and Brynn Katany ('20) on the right.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Permanent Things Campaign/Annual Fund	\$100,000	\$347,650
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$25,324
Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged \$467,070 Received \$457,598

GIVING IS EASY

Thank you to all who have given so generously to New Covenant Schools. Your gifts are appreciated and will be used to further the mission of our school. Donations may be given throughout the year through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent that the law provides. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

ETCETERA

EVERYONE

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP) - DEADLINE JANUARY 15

This is the last week to apply for tuition assistance for the 2023-24 school year! Please refer to an email sent out on **October 24, 2022** for instructions.

ACADEMIC TESTING

Students in grades 2-9 will sit for CTP-5 testing **Tuesday, January 17** through **Friday, January 20**. Please help your students have the best experience by bringing them to school on time, and avoiding unnecessary appointments, absences, and early dismissals.

LUNCH ORDERING

The lunch ordering window for February is now open and will remain open through **Friday, January 20**. A third quarter charge of \$35 for those who subscribe to the yearly milk plan will be posted to the Prepay Lunch Account. Please be sure to check your balances and add money to cover this and any other

incidental lunch charges. Please contact **Debbie Williamson** with any questions at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

UNIFORM DONATIONS

Gryphon Outfitters, our school store, accepts donations of uniform items in good condition. We are grateful for those items that have been given and welcome new ones. To donate, simply leave your contributions at the front desk. Please be sure to send only uniform items that are free of stains, tears or personalization. As a reminder, Gryphon Outfitters is open each Thursday school is in session from 2:30-3:30pm.

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!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY—JANUARY 16



There will be no school next **Monday, January 16** in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

SCHOOL CLOSING OR DELAY

All information regarding school-wide closings or delays related to weather will be communicated via email as well as reported to ABC News 13 and their online closings list. **A decision to close or delay school will be made by the Headmaster by 6:00am.** If you are unable to get to school because of unplowed roads, your child's absence will be excused. Please note that our families and faculty are spread out over several counties; therefore, our decision to delay or cancel may be based on conditions different from those you see outside your own home.

IMPORTANT ADMISSIONS UPDATE

January is the time of year when re-enrollment takes place for next school year. Because we operate on continuous enrollment contracts, your student is automatically re-enrolled—there is nothing for you to do. Your child's seat is protected, and the admissions office will contact you at some point to update in FACTS any personal information that may have changed. If you have moved, changed your email, or added a new permission for pick-up – all of those things should be updated annually so that we can serve you well. This update of information is completed through the Enrollment Packet.

If you are certain, however, that your child will not return in the 2023-24 school year, you have until **February 1, 2023** to notify **Linda Hackenbracht** in the Finance Office. We ask that you do this right away so that you are not subject to

additional charges. The Continuous Enrollment Fee of \$150 will be charged to your account on that date if you do not opt out. If your plans are uncertain, you should also contact the office right away to clarify your situation.

New Covenant is experiencing higher than normal applications for admission. The kindergarten class for 2023 is full and was formed on December 10, a full two months earlier than any in the history of the school. There are wait pools—some are deep—in every Grammar and Middle School grade except rising 6th. It is important, therefore, that you communicate with the school if there is any issue regarding enrollment for 2023-24. We want to continue to serve every one of our families as well as prospective families who are seeking placement for their children.

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Spring Break will explain more about the groups of students against whom we measure ourselves, as well as telling you how your student performed. These tests are not used to make decisions about grade or class placements.

Our faculty and administrators do use the test results, particularly those of whole groups, to evaluate the effectiveness of our curriculum and instruction. For example, if a whole class scores lower than we are satisfied with on a section of the test related, say, to punctuation, we may decide to increase the amount of time we give to those concepts in the classroom. Thus, the tests not only evaluate our students, but provide a monitor for how our curriculum is mapped and delivered in the classroom.

During the week of testing, our teachers strive to create environments that are low-stress. We schedule the tests over a period of days so that we don't spend all day on them. We also provide adequate time for breaks. Homework in the Middle and Grammar Schools may be adjusted as well, and we don't skip "specials," things like art, music, PE and exploratory, which require different types of thinking and activity than standardized tests, and thus provide purposeful rest.

The most important thing you as a parent can do to set up your child for success is to get them to school on time or early on each test day. Students who are tardy may not be able to enter their

classrooms immediately if timed testing has already begun; instead they will wait in the lobby or clinic until there is a break. They don't need extra motivational treats, but they do need a healthy breakfast, snack, and lunch to keep their energy high. They do not need additional school supplies, but they do need to come to school with the expectation of a balanced and happy day, not a day filled with stress or anxiety about performance. We can help them enjoy the process by seeing it as one part of their education, not a high-stakes hurdle to clear.

Finally, our long experience with the CTP-5 confirms to us that not every student performs at the same level. Students may score higher in one area and lower in another.

The tests are extremely good at assessing our students accurately. This is one time of year when we remind ourselves of our "Portrait of the Graduate" which reads in part: "A New Covenant student meets success with humility and failure with confidence." As a parent you should know that we use the times of assessment to put this motto into practice, teaching into the lives of our students so that they make the right moral response to their performance.

CTP tests begin on Tuesday, January 17, and, depending on the grade level, may continue through Friday, January 20.



BASKETBALL SCORES

Friday, January 6

VARSITY GIRLS

SWVA	30
New Covenant	44

VARSITY BOYS

SWVA	45
New Covenant	61



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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

