



Parents, grandparents and special guests join Grammar School students for chapel time on Generations Day.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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A GOOD MAN SPEAKING WELL

by Scott McCurley, Academic Dean, School of Rhetoric

Why is a rhetorical exercise (a thesis) the capstone experience at New Covenant Schools? The briefest answer is, of course, that this is the School of Rhetoric. Yet what is so important about rhetoric that it earns such a prominent position in our curriculum? The classical conception of rhetoric will aid you in understanding its importance.

The Greeks, before Socrates, understood rhetoric to be the cohering fabric of all disciplines, harnessing knowledge in the most effective way and then uniting knowledge to ethics. The fifth century BC Greek rhetorician Isocrates wrote, "It

was men who were preeminent not only in birth and reputation, but in wisdom and eloquence who have been the authors of all our blessings." Four centuries later Cicero struck the same note of praise, writing that "the foundation of eloquence, as with everything, is wisdom" and that "eloquence is so potent a force that it embraces the origin and operation and development of all things, all virtues and duties, all natural principles governing the morals and mind and life of mankind."

The classical Christian tradition is united in its celebration of articulate and graceful expression,

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WHAT'S NEW?

Apostles' Windows in the Marie Macdonald Chapel

The Marie Macdonald Chapel will undergo one more upgrade this week. On Tuesday the final three Apostles' Windows will be installed. You may be unaware that the chapel was designed years ago with twelve panels that face the hallway. These panels were intended to be "glassed," and over a period of many years, we have accepted commissions from members of our community who wished to donate them. Each window bears unique entablature, and many of them have been offered in

memory of faculty members or other loved ones associated in some way with the school and parish community. The windows bear the images of the apostles, with each displaying the major symbols that tradition associates with them (some are very curious!). When the headmaster conceived the project, however, he insisted that the artist render the apostles as young men, not as the hoary-headed elders they are often portrayed to be in liturgical art. As a children's chapel, the desire

was to suggest to young people that the apostles themselves were likely very young men when Jesus called them, many of them strong, sun-tanned fishermen! Take a closer look next time you are on campus. Tomorrow's installation includes St. Simon the Zealot, St. Bartholomew, and St. Matthias, the replacement for Judas Iscariot.



THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

SENIOR THESIS TITLES

- **Dylan Abaidoo**, "Introducing EQ: The Success of Quotient"
- **Macy Andrews**, "The Injustice of the Christian Right"
- **Jael Brenning**, "Twenty-Two Days of Terror: An Assessment of Israel's Operation Cast Lead Under the Just War Theory"
- **Rebekah Bryant**, "OK Boomer: An Alternative Approach to Understanding 'Generational Difference'"
- **Lydia Craven**, "More than Enough: Finding a Fine Line Between Women's Health and Beauty"
- **Van Curran**, "Jack's Conundrum: How the Mind of the Renaissance Man Saves Society From Bigotry and Specialization"
- **Ethan Edwards**, "Evolution: The Swiss Cheese of Scientific Theory"
- **Jenna Hackenbracht**, "A Monarchy to Last Millenia: How a German Prince Contributed to the Longevity of the British Monarchy"
- **Elijah Higey**, "The Remedy Is in Psychology: A Thesis Arguing for the Implementation of Shared Social Identities to Reduce Implicit Bias"
- **Eli Johnson**, "The Billion Dollar Allergy: The Moral Issue With the Modern Pharmaceutical Industry"
- **Nate Kirshberger**, "The Tragedy of the Vietnam War: An Analysis of Using Aquinas' Just War Theory"
- **Will Kittrell**, "Greenwashing the City: How Environmental Gentrification Threatens Vulnerable Communities"
- **Elizabeth Matney**, "More Than Just Remembering: Understanding Calvin's View of the Importance of the Lord's Supper"
- **Jonathan Matney**, "The Dental Dilemma: How the Local Private Dental Practices are Falling Prey to DSO Corporations"
- **Kaden Newsome**, "The Illusion of Conscious Will"
- **Abigail Place**, "Digging and Displaying the Dead: Archeological Ethics and Considerations"
- **Savannah Santini**, "Toxic Technology: Social Media's Harmful Effect on Relationships, Communities, and Solitude"
- **Waylon Spiva**, "Who Are my Ancestors? An Argument for Darwinian Evolution"
- **Jackson Taylor**, "Proving Corruption in American Healthcare: An Examination of the Foundation of Corruption Within the American Healthcare System"
- **Jude Vollmer**, "Transhumanism: How Technological Advancement Is Not Always What it Seems"



ROD CAMDEN KICKOFF CLASSIC TRACK MEET RESULTS

Held at E.C. Glass High School, March 24

GRYPHON WOMEN'S HIGHLIGHTS

400M

3rd Alicia Kenny (Fr), 1:08.69

800M

1st Melia Leitner (So), 2:48.17

3rd Elizabeth Matney (Sr), 3:09.96

200M

4th Breezy Knight (Fr), 30.98

SHOT PUT

1st Savannah Santini (Sr), 25-05.00 —
state qualifier

2nd Jael Brenning (Sr), 24-09.00 —
state qualifier

3rd Sarah Robert (Jr), 24-07.00 —
state qualifier

DISCUS

3rd Jael Brenning (Sr), 60-02

4th Savannah Santini (Sr), 57-06

GRYPHON MEN'S HIGHLIGHTS

100M

1st Jude Brunette (Fr), 11.63 —
state qualifier

HIGH JUMP

1st Kaden Newsome (Sr), 5-10.00 —
state qualifier and **SCHOOL RECORD**

LONG JUMP

4th Kaden Newsome (Sr), 19-02.00 —
state qualifier

SHOT PUT

2nd Dylan Abaidoo (Sr), 35-00.00 —
SCHOOL RECORD

4th Ethan Edwards (Sr), 31-02.00

DISCUS

4th Dylan Abaidoo (Sr), 81-02.00

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

ONLINE ENROLLMENT PACKET REVIEW

If you have not already done so, please complete your family's Online Enrollment Information Review Packet. It can be found on FACTS under Apply/Enroll or on the app under Online Enrollment Information Review. This review packet is required to be completed for all students **so they can be added to the 2023-24 rosters**. Please see email from **Linda Simon** on **March 6** with instructions. Contact Linda at Lsimon@newcovenantschools.org with any questions.

EASTER BREAK

School will be dismissed at noon on **Thursday, April 6**. This begins our Easter Break from **April 7-10**. Students return and school resumes on **Tuesday, April 11**.

REPORT CARDS

Students' report cards will be emailed this **Friday, March 31**.

THANK YOU

Over 100 families participated in the Kroger community rewards program last quarter. New Covenant Schools was the

recipient of \$870! Thank you to all who participated. To link your Kroger Plus Card with New Covenant Schools, visit www.kroger.com to create an account or sign in and choose community rewards. Our organization code is IX901.

FIELD DAY

Save the date for the annual Field Day on **Friday, May 26**. This event is for our Grammar School students in grades K-4. More details to come.

THESIS RECEPTION

Seniors and their parents are invited to a celebratory meal with the SOR faculty on **Friday, March 31** from 6:00-7:30pm to celebrate their accomplishments. See email sent from **Scott McCurley** on **Monday, March 27** for more details.

HANDS AND HEARTS

Thank you to those who have returned sponsorship packets to the office. Tickets will come home with the youngest student in each family on **Tuesday, April 11** with prize drawings to be held on **Thursday, April 13**. If you have not returned your packet and would like to participate, please bring it to the office completed as soon as possible.

HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES

Next week school will pause again as we take time out for the special season of Holy Week—the most sacred time in the Christian calendar. Observances begin on Palm Sunday, and throughout the week the calendar walks with our Lord in “real time,” all the way through Easter Day. The services listed below are open to you as a part of the school community and are offered by the school's affiliate parish, All Saints Church. All are welcome.

Palm Sunday – 9:00am **April 2**

Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm **April 6**

Good Friday – 12:05pm **April 7**

Easter Day – 9:00am **April 9**

FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Permanent Things Campaign/Annual Fund	\$100,000	\$351,050
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$25,995
Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$497,570 <i>Received</i> \$481,093
Hands & Hearts	\$50,000	\$19,475

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.

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because true and beautiful expression comes from a truly virtuous human being, as Jesus said: “The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). New Covenant School of Rhetoric is founded upon the universal truth so well distilled by Quintilian, that the rhetorician is “the good man speaking well.” To this end, the Senior Thesis Project is a capstone exercise, a culminating experience of your studies.

These are the opening words of our Senior Thesis Manual, the guiding document for our students as they embark upon this capstone project. We start here with the students because we want them to seize this opportunity to weave together the true, the good and the beautiful. Although this animating principle resides across the grades and disciplines, it is the case that this particular project, especially with respect to its *independent, self-directed nature*, affords the students a unique opportunity both to comprehend and be shaped by these principles.

As the class of 2023 headed off into the summer before their senior year, each was asked to determine a thesis topic and find a book to read as a jumping-off point. When they arrived back on campus in August, they began the daily Thesis class with their advisors, researching and reading extensively. Students reflected on the information and arguments they encountered and discussed with their peers and advisors how that might give shape to their thesis statement.

This hard work continued throughout the fall semester, resulting in an initial draft just before Christmas break.

Secondary readers (other faculty members and even local alumni) joined in to provide constructive feedback and the students took the months of January and February to write and re-write and re-write again, finally culminating in the recent completion of their final papers. And now, this week, the seniors bring all that dedication and hard work to a finale with the Senior Thesis Defense Days!

On Thursday and Friday of this week, regular classes in the SOR are suspended for two days, and we schedule the thesis defenses on the model of an academic conference—picture three ‘breakout’ sessions happening simultaneously, each with a different senior ‘defending’ his or her thesis. But what is this defense? Seniors are tasked with taking their 15–20-page paper and distilling that down to a 15-minute presentation with PowerPoint. This is followed by Q&A for 45 minutes conducted by the student’s thesis advisor and the secondary reader. Present in the room are their parents and peers, all there to give their support for this remarkable achievement.

And a remarkable achievement it is. A simple reading of this description can lead one to believe that this is a seemingly impossible task. That long of a paper? An hour of standing up and defending that paper? Two reflections on such a response: First, yes, we do affirm that this is a very big accomplishment for high school students. And so, when we ask so much of them, we work hard to support them in it, starting all the way back in the ninth grade. Second, every year it gives me such great joy to hear the students after their Friday defenses, reflecting on their rightly-earned sense of success—they did it; it wasn’t too bad after all; and they are proud!



Seniors are tasked with taking their thesis paper and distilling that down to a 15-minute presentation followed by a 45-minute Q&A conducted by the student’s thesis advisor before parents and peers.

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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