

NCS CLASS OF 2023



THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

MAY 8, 2023
VOL. 25 NO. 29 MAJORIS

NUMBERING THE DAYS

By John Heaton, Headmaster

It's the time of year when the senior class is counting down the days to graduation. Time is a funny thing. It can fly by, or it can pass in an achingly slow fashion. It all depends upon your perspective. When this year's senior class entered kindergarten I had already laid down a dozen "laps" at New Covenant. Then, in 2010 the young men and women of the class of 2023 joined me and together we have sojourned as traveling companions for another thirteen! Others joined us along the way, and soon we'll celebrate all of them as they reach the milestone of graduation.

Graduation is both a conclusion and a commencement. On the one hand, it marks the official end of childhood; on the other hand it signals the beginning of young adulthood. The ceremony itself is important because in it we consciously transition from one to the other, mixing two profound sensations, simultaneously experiencing the glow of memories we share with family and classmates, and giddiness as we step into the future with increasing independence. In this moment, parents shake their heads and wonder how it went so fast. Students march triumphantly across the platform to receive

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WHAT'S NEW?

Commencement Speaker— Headmaster John Heaton

New Covenant Schools is pleased to announce that Headmaster **John Heaton** will bring the commencement address at this year's graduation exercises. Headmaster Heaton arrived at our school the summer of 1998 and has just completed his 25th year of service to

our school. He has given administrative structure to New Covenant and developed the campus into what we see and experience today. The Headmaster continues to be involved in the daily functioning of our school as he welcomes students in the morning drop-off

line and teaches Greek II to Seniors. These are his favorite moments of each day! The commencement service will be held at Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, May 27 at 2:00pm.**

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS—CLASS OF 2023



DYLAN ABAIDOO

Entered New Covenant: 10th Grade

Co-Curricular: House Council | Basketball 2 | Track and Field 2 | Soccer | Swim Team

Recognition: Rotary Club Citizenship Award | Poetry Recital Finalist | Most Improved Award in Swimming | Most Improved Award in JV Basketball | Year Honors: *magna cum laude 1, cum laude 1*

Thesis Title: "Introducing EQ: The Success Quotient"



REBEKAH BRYANT

Entered New Covenant: 6th Grade

Co-Curricular: House Council | Drama 2 | AMC Math Competition 2

Recognition: National Latin Exam *Maxima cum laude* | National Latin Exam *cum laude* | Year Honors: *magna cum laude 3*

Thesis Title: "OK, Boomer: An Alternative Approach to Understanding 'Generational Differences'"



MACY ANDREWS

Entered New Covenant: 9th Grade

Co-Curricular: Drama 3 | Tennis 2

Recognition: National Latin Exam *cum laude 2*

Thesis Title: "The Injustice of the Christian Right"



LYDIA CRAVEN

Entered New Covenant: 3rd Grade

Co-Curricular: House Council | Volleyball 4 | Soccer 2 | Track & Field | Volleyball Assistant Coach for 5th-6th grade team | Co-Concertmaster for Orchestra | AMC Math Competition | Drama

Recognition: National Latin Exam *summa cum laude* | National Latin Exam *magna cum laude* | Most Improved Player Award, Volleyball | Year Honors: *magna cum laude 1, summa cum laude 2*

Thesis Title: "More Than Enough: Finding a Fine Line Between Women's Health and Beauty"



JAEL BRENNING

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: Track & Field 4 | Cross Country 3 | Basketball 4 | Drama | Engineering Team | Volleyball | Drama

Recognition: Rotary Club Citizenship Award | National Latin Exam *maxima cum laude* | Poetry Recital Finalist 3 | Most Improved Runner, Cross Country | Gryphon Award, Basketball | Science Challenge 2nd place team | Science Challenge 3rd place team | Year Honors: *summa cum laude 2, magna cum laude 1*

Thesis Title: "Twenty-Two Days of Terror: An Assessment of Israel's Operation Cast Lead Under the Just War Theory"



VAN CURRAN

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: Soccer 4

Recognition: Senior Thesis Honors | Art Fair, 1st place Videography | Year Honors: *cum laude 1, magna cum laude 1*

Thesis Title: "Jack's Conundrum: How the Mind of the Renaissance Man Saves Society From Bigotry and Specialization"



REMEMBERING
*The Christmas party,
December 2022.*



ETHAN EDWARDS

Entered New Covenant: 1st Grade

Co-Curricular: Track & Field 4 | Cross Country 4 | Basketball 1 | Basketball Team Manager 2

Recognition: Science Challenge 2nd place team

Thesis Title: "Evolution: The Swiss Cheese of Scientific Theory"

H O N O R A R I A



JENNA HACKENBRACHT

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: Soccer 4 | Volleyball 4 | Basketball | Volleyball Assistant Coach for 5th/6th grade team | Drama

Recognition: Senior Thesis Honors | National Latin Exam magna cum laude | National Latin Exam summa cum laude | All-Conference 2nd Team, Volleyball | Most Improved Player Award, JV Volleyball | Poetry Recital Finalist 4 | Poetry Recital Class Winner 2 | Poetry Recital Rhetoric Winner | Year Honors: magna cum laude 1, summa cum laude 2

Thesis Title: "A Monarchy to Last Millenia: How a German Prince Contributed to the Longevity of the British Monarchy"



ELIJAH HIGEY

Entered New Covenant: 9th Grade

Co-Curricular: Lacrosse 4 | Track & Field | AMC Math Competition 2 | Drama 2

Recognition: National Latin Exam magna cum laude | Poetry Recital Finalist

Thesis Title: "The Remedy Is In Psychology: A Thesis Arguing for the Implementation of Shared Social Identities to Reduce Implicit Bias"



ELI JOHNSON

Entered New Covenant: 9th Grade

Co-Curricular: Lacrosse 4 | Soccer 4 | Cross Country 2 | Track & Field

Recognition: Poetry Recital Finalist

Thesis Title: "The Billion Dollar Allergy: The Moral Issue With the Modern Pharmaceutical Industry"



NATE KIRSHBERGER

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: Lacrosse 4 | Cross Country 3 | Basketball 2 | Soccer

Recognition: Gryphon Sportsmanship Award, Basketball | Most Improved Player Award, Basketball | Year Honors: magna cum laude 3

Thesis Title: "The Tragedy of the Vietnam War: An Analysis Using Aquinas' Just War Theory"



WILL KITTRELL

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: House Council | Basketball 2 | AMC Math Competition 2 | Drama | Tennis

Recognition: Senior Thesis Honors | National Latin Exam cum laude | Poetry Recital Finalist | Most Improved Player Award, Basketball | Art Fair 3rd place, Sculpture | Science Challenge 1st place team | Year Honors: magna cum laude 2, summa cum laude 1

Thesis Title: "Greenwashing the City: How Environmental Gentrification Threatens Vulnerable Communities"



ELIZABETH MATNEY

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: Orchestra Concertmaster | Cross Country 3 | Track & Field 3 | Basketball | Tennis | Drama

Recognition: Bank of the James Citizeship Award | Poetry Recital Finalist | Science Challenge 3rd place team | Year Honors: cum laude 3

Thesis Title: "More Than Just Remembering: Understanding Calvin's View of the Importance of the Lord's Supper"



JONATHAN MATNEY

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: First Cello, Orchestra 4 | Lacrosse 4 | Cross Country 2 | Soccer | Basketball

Recognition: National Latin Exam cum laude | Science Challenge 1st place team | Year Honors: cum laude

Thesis Title: "The Dental Dilemma: How Local Private Dental Practices are Falling Prey to DSO Corporations"

REMEMBERING
Cotillion,
January 2023.



H O N O R A R I A



KADEN NEWSOME

Entered New Covenant: 6th Grade

Co-Curricular: Soccer 4 | Track & Field | Basketball | AMC Math Competition 2

Recognition: Senior Thesis Honors | Most Valuable Player Award, Soccer 2 | All Conference 1st team, Soccer 2 | All State 1st team, Soccer | National Latin Exam *magna cum laude* | Distinguished Scholar, Classic Learning Test 10 | Year Honors: *magna cum laude* 1, *summa cum laude* 2

Thesis Title: "The Illusion of Conscious Will"



JACKSON TAYLOR

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: Lacrosse 4 | Basketball 2

Recognition: DAR Good Citizens Scholarship Award, District Level | Gryphon Sportsmanship Award, Basketball | National Latin Exam *summa cum laude* | Science Challenge 2nd place team | Year Honors: *magna cum laude* 3

Thesis Title: "Proving Corruption in American Healthcare: An Examination of the Foundation of Corruption Within the American Healthcare System"



ABIGAIL PLACE

Entered New Covenant: 9th Grade

Co-Curricular: Swim Team 3 | Tennis Team

Recognition: Art Fair 1st place, Painting 2 | Art Fair Best in Show | Year Honors: *magna cum laude* 1, *cum laude* 2

Thesis Title: "Digging and Displaying the Dead: Archeological Ethics and Considerations"



JUDE VOLLMER

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: House Council 2 | Soccer 4 | Lacrosse 4 | Basketball 4 | Track & Field | AMC Math Competition 2

Recognition: Gryphon Sportsmanship Award, Soccer 3 | All Conference 2nd team, Soccer | All State 2nd team, Soccer | Gryphon Sportsmanship Award, Basketball 2 | All Conference 2nd team Lacrosse | National Latin Exam *summa cum laude* | National Latin Exam *magna cum laude* | Poetry Recital Finalist 4 | Poetry Recital Class Winner 2 | Year Honors: *magna cum laude* 3

Thesis Title: "Transhumanism: How Technological Advancement is Not Always What It Seems"



SAVANNAH SANTINI

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: Tennis Team 4 | Track & Field 4

Recognition: Most Valuable Player, Tennis 2

Thesis Title: "Toxic Technology: Social Media's Harmful Effect on Relationships, Communities, and Solitude"



WAYLON SPIVA

Entered New Covenant: Kindergarten

Co-Curricular: Lacrosse 4 | Soccer 3

Recognition: Senior Thesis Honors | Most Improved Player Award, Soccer | Most Valuable Player Award, Soccer | All State 2nd team, Soccer | Art Fair 3rd place, Mixed Media | Science Challenge 1st place team | Year Honors: *magna cum laude* 3

Thesis Title: "Who Are My Ancestors? An Argument for Darwinian Evolution"

REMEMBERING
Senior Thesis
Defenses,
March 2023.



REMEMBERING
Sports Teams
and Teammates,
May 2023.



H O N O R A R I A

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their diplomas,
wondering why it
all took so long.

Children
experience time
differently than
adults. A toddler
takes a nap, and
when he awakens,
in his mind it's a
new day! It takes
time for little children



*Kacie and Jimmy Kirshberger with now
Class of 2023 senior, Nate Kirshberger.*

to come to terms with the days of the week. Once as a very
young child my mother announced to me that we were
going on a camping trip on the weekend. I asked when that
was, and she told me it was "the-day-after-the-day-after-
tomorrow." It was only Tuesday and my young brain locked
up, unable to process the fact that the big trip would begin
on Friday. For me, that was eons away. Birthdays were the
same way. Christmas took forever to arrive.

In the sixth grade I distinctly remember when it
occurred to me that I was exactly half way through grade
school. It had taken a long time to get where I was, and
I was somewhat defeated by the prospect of enduring
an equal length of time just to get on with life. College? I
couldn't conceive of that and wondered why anyone would
keep going to school if they didn't have to.

By middle school children begin to get the rhythm of
passing weeks and months; they grasp seasons and in their
minds time begins to shorten up slightly. When they reach
college, they begin to get the rhythm of years, and they will
be somewhat surprised at how quickly four years can slip
away. They'll move into a new job, maybe get married, and
perhaps start families of their own. Then, as many of us
know all too well, middle age will suddenly surprise them,
and they will awaken to the rhythm not only of months,
weeks or years, but of whole decades. Those of us who are
already there strain to remember what we were thinking
way back in our twenties and thirties, and old photographs
suggest that we might have been entirely different
persons altogether.

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CLASS OF 2023—COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Biola University (1)
Bridgewater College (1)
Christopher Newport University (3)
Central Virginia Community College (1)
George Mason University (1)
Grove City College (1)
James Madison University (2)
Liberty University (11)
North Carolina State (1)
Old Dominion University (1)
Randolph College (2)
Sweet Briar College (1)
University of Lynchburg (1)
University of Miami (1)
University of Virginia (1)
Virginia Commonwealth University (1)
Virginia Tech (3)
Waymaker Institute (1)
Word of Life Bible Institute New York (1)

NAMED MERIT SCHOLARS

LYDIA CRAVEN | Liberty University Academic Scholar |
Liberty High Achiever Scholar

VAN CURRAN | Biola University Academic Dean Scholar |
Biola Conservatory Scholar

JENNA HACKENBRACHT | Christopher Newport
University President's Leadership Program | Christopher
Newport University Honors

NATE KIRSHBERGER | Liberty University Academic
Scholar | Liberty High Achiever Scholar

WILL KITTRELL | University of Miami Presidential Scholar

ABIGAIL PLACE | Sweet Briar Presidential Scholar |
Sweet Briar Honors Scholar

JACKSON TAYLOR | University of Lynchburg Westover
Scholar | University of Lynchburg Hopwood Scholar |
Virginia Tech Honors College

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP TOTAL: \$504,780

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

ALUMNI LACROSSE GAME

Join us for a blue/white lacrosse game with our alums on **Friday, May 12 at 6:00pm**. All former Gryphon players are welcome to participate or attend the game and should contact **Katie Sakai** to reserve your spot at ksakai@newcovenantschools.org.

SPRING ATHLETIC AWARDS

The Spring Athletic Awards Ceremony will be held **Wednesday, May 17 at 12:40pm** in the Workman Field House. Families are welcome to attend.

LUNCH ACCOUNTS

As the school year is drawing to a close, please pay close attention to your prepay lunch account. If your account has a negative balance, that means that your child has made purchases when there are no funds on the account. **Please add funds ASAP if you have a negative balance or your child will not be able to make purchases in the lunchroom as we finish the school year.**

LOST AND FOUND

Don't forget to check the Lost and Found bins for any missing items. At the

end of the year, all unclaimed items will be donated.

FIELD DAY

Our annual Field Day will be on **Friday, May 26**. This event is for our Grammar School students in grades K-4. If your student in grades K-4 will **NOT** be attending, email **Eliza Olson** at eolson@newcovenantschools.org. Although Kindergarten will have their last day of school on Thursday, May 25, they are invited to come at 9:45am and participate in Field Day **IF they have a parent accompanying them.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT

Middle School students in strings, band and choir will be performing in a Spring Concert on **Monday, May 22 at 7pm**. Students should arrive in concert dress. (Uniform guides are available to view under Resources in FACTS.) All are invited to come enjoy their performances.

MIDDLE SCHOOL END-OF-YEAR PARTY

All middle school students are invited to attend the annual End-of-Year Party. The event runs from **5-7pm on Friday, May**

19. Students should wear comfy athletic clothes and tennis shoes for the games, and there will be a variety of carnival-inspired snacks! This event is free of charge. We hope to see all 5th through 8th graders there!

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC CONCERT

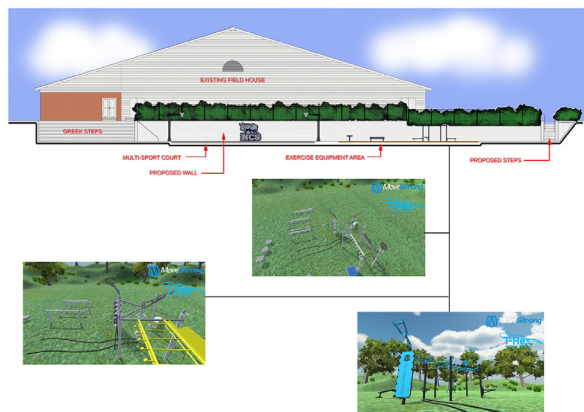
Our School of Rhetoric students in strings, band and choir will be performing in a Spring Concert on **Monday, May 15 at 7pm**. Students participating should arrive in concert dress. (Uniform guides are available to view under Resources in FACTS.) All are invited to come enjoy their performances.

SENIOR NOTES

The last day of school for seniors is **Friday, May 19**. Seniors should plan on returning to campus on **Wednesday, May 24 at 12:00pm** to join the rest of the SOR for a picnic lunch at Pat's Pavilion, followed by book return, locker clean-out and End-of-Year Awards.



Varsity girls' soccer team in action last Thursday in 2-1 win over VES. (L-R) Ellie Bonebright, Brielle Walker, Charlotte Seay and Gia Barlow.



PERMANENT THINGS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

New Covenant's back campus recreational expansion and beautification project took another step forward last week as five oak trees were removed by New Hites Tree Company.

The removals make room for a large retention wall which will become the foundation for a paved outdoor court for various activities and a tennis wall.

In addition, the cross-country trail will receive upgrades and an outdoor gym will be installed. Excavation begins immediately after school ends in May. The project is part of the Permanent Things Campaign which seeks to complete capital projects on campus as well as retire the school's debt. Thank you to **Warner and Nancy Hall** and to **Phyllis Workman** for significant gifts which helped see this portion of our project to completion.



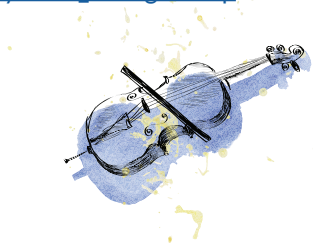
Renovation plans for the back campus recreation expansion and beautification.

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS SUMMER CAMPS

STRINGS CAMP

Joe Nigro and Teresa Angell will lead two weeks of Strings Camp for rising 4th-through 12th-grade students. The camps will run Monday through Friday, **June 12 - 16** and **June 19 - 23**, 9am – noon. Students may attend one or both weeks. The cost is \$125 per week and payment should be made by check to “James Chambers Players.” Please contact Joe Nigro at jnigro@newcovenantschools.org if you have any questions regarding the camp.

bit.ly/NCS_StringsCamp



STAYFIT CAMP

Our annual StayFit Camp will be offered in two sessions this year for rising 1st – 7th-grade New Covenant students. The first session will be held **June 19 - 29**. The second session will be held **July 10 - July 20**. The camp runs Monday through Thursday each week with no camp on Fridays. The cost is \$125 for one session for the first child and \$25 for each additional sibling. If you sign your students up for both sessions, the cost is \$200 for the first child and \$50 for each additional sibling. The deadline to sign up is **Friday, May 26**. After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account that must be paid by **June 15, 2023**.

bit.ly/NCS_StayFit_Camp



AMERICAN GIRL CAMP

Rising 2nd – 5th-grade New Covenant girls, we would love to have you join us **Monday - Friday, June 12 - 16** from 9am - 1pm for our annual American Girl Camp! This year's doll is Maryellen Larkin. We will go back to the times of poodle skirts and saddle shoes as we explore post-WWII American culture through dancing, cooking and crafts. Camp registration ends on **May 26**, and the camp is limited to 15 girls. The cost is \$200 per student. You will be invoiced through your FACTS account and the fee must be paid by **June 15, 2023**. If you have any questions, please contact **Eliza Olson** at eolson@newcovenantschools.org.

bit.ly/NCS_AGD_Camp



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When I contemplate the early chapters of Genesis and read the stories of the antediluvian world, I marvel at the recorded life spans—some 600, 700 or 800 years. Methuselah lived to be 969! These people had the rhythm not only of years and decades, but that of whole centuries! With age comes perspective, and the longer we live—if we apply our hearts to wisdom—we can begin to imagine the divine point of view, in which a thousand years is but as yesterday. Time teaches us to wait. Time teaches us to be patient. Time teaches us to think more like God himself. If we're intentional, we can

number our days and, looking back, we can detect his providential hand in the affairs of our lives.

We're not just counting down the days to graduation with the class of 2023, we are numbering them and applying our hearts to wisdom.



QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASS OF 2022 • Amy Bonebright
• Dr. Tim Brophy • Leslie Moeller
• Bob Price • Dan Vollmer • CLASS OF 2023 •
Nancy Hall • Kristin Hampton • Sam Mizener
• Tom Rogers • Anne Umbarger • Darryl
Whitesell • CLASS OF 2024 • Mike Lovell

EX OFFICIO

Rev'd John Heaton

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