



First graders try out the new library listening stations for the first time last week.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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STUDENTS, EMBRACE A LIFE LIVED WELL

by Davidson Morse, Chaplain

I graduated from Evangelical Christian School in Memphis in 1988. There were almost as many people in my graduating class as are in the School of Rhetoric today. At the beginning of my senior year, we all had to make an appointment to see the guidance counselor to talk about our plans for our last year, and most importantly, college applications. I didn't know where I wanted to go, and I didn't have a plan. I was expecting the pep talk about college. So I was surprised when the guidance counselor said to me, "You know, this is the best time of your life. Take time to enjoy it. Don't rush." Wise words. Sadly,

I didn't have enough wisdom to listen. I didn't know where I was going, but I was in a rush to get there. 'Anywhere but here' was my mantra!

Looking back, I still don't think that I agree with her entirely. Being happily married, father of four children with a vocation in the church is a full life that I wouldn't trade to be a teenager again! But the wisdom that I missed is that I should have made the effort to enjoy the time God had given me, and my parents had sacrificed to provide at ECS. It was a beautiful tree-lined campus, filled with teachers who loved their students and truly sought to encourage

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WHAT'S NEW?

Ladies' Book Study

Fr. Davidson Morse is hosting a study of C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* every other Thursday evening beginning **September 21 at 7:00pm** in the school library. There will be five meetings which will finish up right before Thanksgiving break. This is a great work of modern theology that is accessible, thought-provoking and entirely practical. Fr. Davidson taught this text for many years to students in our School of Rhetoric. All moms are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Fr. Morse at dmorse@newcovenantschools.org.



H O N O R A R I A

MS RETREAT SETS TONE, BUILDS COMMUNITY

Early in each school year students in the School of Dialectic (5-8) take time out of the classroom routine for an excursion to Watermarks Camp in Scottsville, VA. Situated in Central Virginia on more than 600 acres of land, Watermarks has hosted our students for nearly 15 years. The retreat, which is well-attended by parents and faculty members, is designed to promote friendships between students new and old and to set the tone for the coming school year. The students participate over two days with lower middle school (5-6) attending one day and upper middle school (7-8) the next. Last Thursday and Friday middle school students shared meals, kayaked, fished, canoed, engaged in low and high ropes courses, participated in a chapel service led by **Chaplain Morse**, and our 8th graders fought an epic paintball battle!

Through fun and engaging outdoor activities, this “tech-free” Watermarks retreat is designed to build community among our middle school faculty and students. Strategic activities and similar events are planned throughout the year to provide opportunities to model the various dispositions of successfully living in Christian community with one another, such as gratitude to our Lord, which propels us to love one another and give to each of the people in our lives the good that is due to them.

Thanks to **Bridges Spiva** and all the MS faculty for organizing such a worthwhile event!



CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS—SEPTEMBER 12



MS boys team off to a fast start.

Michael Seckman – 3rd Place Varsity Boys

Gia Barlow – 4th Place Varsity Girls

Luke Ancona – 3rd Place MS Boys

Tinley Tucker – 2nd Place MS Girls

SPORTS SCORES



Monday, September 11

JR GRYPHONS VOLLEYBALL

Lynchburg Homeschool	1
New Covenant	2

JV VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant	2
SWVA	1

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant	3
SWVA	0

JR GRYPHONS SOCCER

JRDS	2
New Covenant	3

MS SOCCER

JRDS	6
New Covenant	3

Tuesday, September 12

VARSITY SOCCER

New Covenant	3
Covenant	2

MS VOLLEYBALL

Faith Christian	1
New Covenant	2

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Faith Christian	0
New Covenant	3

Thursday, September 14

VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

New Covenant	7
Timberlake	0

MS VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant	2
Covenant	0

Friday, September 15

JV VOLLEYBALL

Carlisle	2
New Covenant	1

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Blue Ridge Christian	0
New Covenant	3

Saturday, September 16

VARSITY SOCCER

New Covenant	1
Veritas School	3

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

TEXT NOTIFICATION

New Covenant is implementing a new texting service that will be used to communicate with parents in the event of an emergency. This service will allow New Covenant to get messages out instantly to families directly via their cell phones, which has the highest visibility rate. In the next two weeks, you will receive a text and/or email directly from Remind.com (our texting service) letting you know you have been enrolled in our group. Please do not opt out. Opting out results in missing potential emergency messages from our school.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Your student's school photos are now available! To order, simply click on the links in the email from Hello@good.photova.com to view and order school photos. If you have not received your email, please check your junk/spam folder first and then email eolson@newcovenantschools.org. If your student was absent on picture day, retakes will be **Thursday, October 19**, and they will automatically be scheduled.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

If you are available during the school day and wish to be on call as substitute teacher, you can apply for the position and be added to our list of subs. If interested, go to the "Join Our Team" page on the school website and submit

a faculty application online, omitting the essays.

PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN 2024-25

Now is the time to submit a student application if you intend for your child to begin Pre-K or Kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year. We offer early enrollment to our current families including our current Pre-K students. New sibling applications for all other grades are also being accepted. Your application for a new sibling will receive priority in our admissions process until **October 12, 2023**. Application is easy. Simply use this link to our website to begin: <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>. School tours are also open. If you would like to learn more about our Pre-K-12 program or know another family who is interested in our school, please use this link to schedule a tour <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/schedule-a-tour/> or contact **Linda Simon** in the admissions office by emailing lsimon@newcovenantschools.org.

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 **Wednesday, September 27**

or any **Wednesday in October at 7:45am** to hear from our Director of Development on how these programs work. You may reserve your spot here <https://bit.ly/FundingEducation2023>

EASY WAYS TO HELP NEW COVENANT RAISE MONEY!

- **Kroger Plus Card**—You can help New Covenant earn money simply by linking your Kroger account to our school. Simply log in to your Kroger account online and select New Covenant Schools to receive your community rewards. Our organization number is IX901.
- **Givens/Little Dickens**—This local bookstore has a rebate program that has provided our library with hundreds of free books. New Covenant Schools receives 3% of your pre-tax purchase total when you simply mention New Covenant Schools to the cashier as you check out. Any family member or friend can participate.

NEW FAMILY DINNER

Headmaster Heaton along with our parent ambassadors will host dinner **tomorrow evening September 19** for all new families in the **Grammar School Commons at 6:00pm**. We look forward to meeting and hearing about the experiences our new families have had in the first few weeks of school. Mr. Heaton will also outline where we go from here.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$82,100 <i>Received</i> \$44,051

The New Covenant Schools Scholarship Foundation exists to provide scholarships for students who would not be able to attend our school without significant help. Individuals who donate to this fund receive a 65% tax credit to be used against state tax liabilities and may use the remaining 35% as a deduction on federal taxes if itemization occurs. This is a way to steward your tax money and use it for a child's education. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

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and inspire us. But the clock was ticking in my head, I needed to get out and see the world, to be grown up, to put aside childish things. And then it was over, and I never looked back.

St. Paul wrote to his young protégé St. Timothy that “godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into this world, and we cannot take anything out of the world, but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” We often associate these words with death because they appear in the traditional funeral service. And while this is a worthy application, Paul isn’t meditating upon his end, or Timothy’s for that matter. The question he is addressing is, “What does it take to live the good life?” or more particularly, “What will Timothy do as the young bishop of Ephesus?” He was a young man, surrounded by older men and women who dismissed his apostolic ministry because of his youth. What Timothy needed was some wrinkles and a balding head. That would win him respect! Or, perhaps more than age, money might buy a great deal of respect. Paul wrote, “Those who desire to be

rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and hurtful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.” Both of these, respect and wealth, were the things that appealed to me as an impatient young man, and I am sure it is just as true for our students today.

But this runs contrary to the ethos that we have established here at New Covenant. The Greek concept of *scholē* or ‘leisure’ indicates a different attitude toward learning altogether. Perhaps ‘restful learning’ would be a better way to describe *scholē*. It is a commitment to learning the good stuff to live the good life. *Scholē* is a way of saying in very practical, physical ways, ‘being transformed by the good and true and beautiful is better than having lots of stuff and being super popular.’ It is a way of orienting ourselves to the Creator that we are not anxious about what we shall eat, or what we shall wear, or where we shall live. Jesus says that the Gentiles (those who don’t know the true God) are the ones who are anxious about those kinds of things. Jesus says that the antidote to anxiety is to seek God’s kingdom first, knowing for sure that the loving God will give us all we need.

As chaplain of New Covenant Schools, I think all the time about the advice my guidance counselor gave me more than 30 years ago. I want our students to embrace the moment that God has given them and rejoice in it. A life lived well, in favor with God and

man, is surely the greatest that any of us could wish for. To take time to read a book, to pray, to care for a friend in need, or better, the stranger. All these make a remarkable life. This is ‘godliness with contentment.’ Of course, it would be fantastic if one of our graduates found the cure for cancer or invented an infinite source of energy! We all would be so proud. But my hope, one that I share with all the faculty at New Covenant Schools, is that it was in these early moments of our students’ lives that they learned that every moment is to be relished, and that every lesson is to be learned for its own sake, and that every ambition finds its perfection when it is offered to God in thanksgiving.



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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