



SOR students in inaugural J-Term courses featuring cooking dishes from around the world, DIY construction, caving and woodworking.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

JANUARY 22, 2024
VOL. 26 NO. 19 MAJORIS

FREEDOM TO LIVE

By Scott McCurley, Academic Dean

Mr. McCurley is concluding his 20th year of service to New Covenant Schools this Friday, January 26. He has been a faculty member since 2004 and the Academic Dean of the School of Rhetoric since 2016. He leaves the school to become the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Lynchburg.

Although I likely think about the Roman Empire three or four times a month, I am quite certain I think of one or more of these quotes (at right) three or four times a week! I think I recite the Galatians passage to myself every day. After two decades of soul-shaping work at New Covenant Schools, these three quotes are intimately connected

in my mind. At the risk of hyperbole, I am going to argue that one can glean the meaning of life through these three statements, or perhaps more precisely, answer the question, "How ought I then to live?"

If you spend a long time working with young people, you relate to their excitement about what lies ahead,

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

ST. PAUL TO THE GALATIANS

If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.

MOTHER TERESA

The strength of a man's virtue should not be measured by his special exertions, but by his habitual acts.

BLAISE PASCAL

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WHAT'S NEW?

Wisdom in Parenting Videos

Our video library has been updated again. You may recall that during the fall New Covenant Schools hosted Keith McCurdy from Total Life Counseling in Roanoke, VA. He provided a wealth of analysis to our school community regarding the lives of children and teenagers. He also gave us parent strategies for building sturdy children and sat down with Headmaster Heaton to

produce five follow-up videos. These are short, easy-to-watch resources for parents on the following topics:

- Wisdom in parenting
- ADHD
- Anxiety
- Measuring emotions
- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Parenting the differences in children.

All of these recordings are ready for your viewing today and can be found in our Video Library housed on our website. You may view them here: <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/about/video-library/>

Thank you again to Adam Miller (Penny-5th and Mia-3rd) and Hello Studios, for his extraordinary filming and editing of the videos you'll find on this page.

H O N O R A R I A

MS STUDENTS COMPETE IN ANNUAL SPELLING BEE

New Covenant held the annual spelling bee last Friday in Moomaw Center. Students in Middle School studied for several weeks in preparation for the event which lasted for a *record-breaking 37 rounds!* It was the first time in school history that the competition lasted into the afternoon hours. The original word list was completely exhausted and the selections were finally pulled from the dictionary. The group spelled over 300 words with the winning word being “parachuted.” Congratulations to our runners-up, **Claire Reynolds** – 7th, **Eliza Manley** – 6th, and our winner, **Kalisteth Burrows** – 6th who will go on to represent New Covenant in the district bee.



Winner Kalisteth Burrows (front) with Claire Reynolds (left) and Eliza Manley.

SWIM MEET RESULTS, HARGRAVES MILITARY SCHOOL 1/19

Our swim team had several members that qualified for state championships over the weekend. Congratulations to our Gryphon swimmers!

- 200 medley relay team – Emily Trautman, Faith Richardson, Addie Ruhl, and Leila Kenny
- Declund Stevenson – 1st place in 200 meter Free Stroke, 1st place in 100 meter Breast Stroke
- Andrew Rogers – 100 meter Butterfly

FUNDRAISING REPORT

| | GOAL | RECEIVED |
|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Annual Fund/Permanent Things | \$100,000 | \$63,714 |
| General Scholarship | \$10,000 | \$54,836 |
| Scholarship Foundation | \$300,000 | <i>Pledged</i> \$424,600 <i>Received</i> \$401,051 |

Thank you for considering New Covenant Schools in your giving. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent that the law provides. Donations may be given through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

SPORTS HONORS



- Senior **Luke Libbey** eclipsed the 500-point total for his career at New Covenant in Men’s Basketball, making him just the 9th player in recorded school history to achieve that mark.
- **Women’s Varsity Basketball** remains ranked the #3 team in VISAA Division 3 state rankings.
- **Men’s Varsity Basketball** remains ranked #2 in VISAA Division 4 state rankings.
- **Men’s JV Basketball** continues their undefeated season at 7-0.

CHRONIC PAIN SUPPORT GROUP

STARTING

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY

24TH

@

6PM

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

122 FLEETWOOD DR,

LYNCHBURG, VA 24501

ENTER THROUGH FRONT DOUBLE DOORS. YOU WILL SEE THE DOUBLE DOORS TO THE LIBRARY DIRECTLY AHEAD.

BI-WEEKLY THROUGH APRIL 3RD

***CHRONIC PAIN IS ANY PAIN LASTING LONGER THAN THREE MONTHS.**

This is a peer-led, faith-based support group for sufferers of chronic pain. It is NOT led by a mental health or medical professional. There will be an opportunity to partake in structured prayer at the end of each meeting.

For more information or questions, text (229) 588-1787

Defined by the National Institute of Health

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT CONTRACT

New Covenant uses a Continuous Enrollment Contract for students, allowing them to automatically be enrolled each year until graduation without having to sign a new contract.

PARENTS WILL NOT BE ASKED TO REENROLL FOR NEXT YEAR. The opt-out deadline for the 2024-25 school year is February 1, 2024. The Continuous Enrollment Fee of \$150 will be charged to your account on that date if you do not opt out. Please contact **Linda Hackenbracht** at lhackenbracht@newcovenantschools.org if your plans for next school year have changed.

ART FAIR

New Covenant's annual Art Fair will be held on **Monday, March 11**. See flyer for details.

THANK YOU

New Covenant has raised \$934.26 from August through November by shopping at Kroger. You can help New Covenant earn money by linking your Kroger account to our school. Simply log in to your Kroger account online or go to the app and select Rewards> Community Rewards> New Covenant Schools to link to your account. Our organization number is IX901.

MOMS IN PRAYER

All moms are invited to this weekly meeting for a time of prayer. Come join us in this new year as we pray for our children and our school community. We

meet **Wednesdays from 2-3pm** in the Marie Macdonald Chapel.

WINTER BREAK

School will be closed for Winter Break from **Thursday, February 15 through Monday, February 19**. Students return on **Tuesday, February 20**.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

BWXT INTERNSHIPS

Juniors and seniors are invited to consider internships with BWXT/Framatome. New Covenant is allotted four or five slots for this spring term. It costs nothing, but you must make a firm commitment to being at all four sessions. The dates are **February 13, March 5, March 26 and April 16**.

(Note that March 26 is over spring break, so if you have travel plans, please do not apply for this.) Additionally, you must be available until at least 3:30pm. If you are playing a sport, that may mean being late to practice or missing a game (if one happens to be scheduled that day).

Students who participate will be off campus for a sizeable portion of each day and would be responsible for making up any missed work. Students will meet for lunch (paid for by the program) in smaller groups at 11:30 (the venue for each day will be designated at a later date), and the group will proceed to the designated location depending on the project (either CVCC campus or the Vector Space facility). Students must be able to transport themselves to and from both the lunch, the facility and then home (or

SCHOOL CLOSING OR DELAY



All information regarding schoolwide 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 6:00 am.

The school's emergency text notification (REMIND) will NOT be used for school closures or weather delays.

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.

back to school) on their own – there will be no school-sponsored transportation.

If you have questions regarding specifics of the opportunity please contact **Mr. Nat Marshall** of BWXT directly at nxmarshall@bwxt.com and copy **Jessica Arango** at jarango@newcovenantschools.org.



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the expansion of choice and freedom of experience beyond the walls of their current station in life. You also understand their fear—the expansion of choice and the responsibility that comes with it. These young adults realize that their responsibilities and, importantly, the consequences attached to them, are wide and deep. And so, although these wise words continue to be a comfort to me as I grow older, I think of these quotes with those students in mind as they face a myriad of questions: Where should I go to college? or Do I even want to go to college? What would I study if I did go? What career might I choose and how are those two things aligned? Will I be able to afford a place to live and cover all the financial responsibilities of living an independent life? Whom will I marry and what if I don't end up in the right place to meet them? One can go on and on and eventually become paralyzed with this train of thought—how I am supposed to know how to live?

Freedom: I think this is one of the greatest gifts we can pass on to young people. The Galatians passage reminds us that in Christ we are free. I think of this as both a freedom from and a freedom to. In Christ, we can be free from the false gods of, say wealth and fame. We can gladly receive them if they come our way, but we need not cling to them as the pillars of a well-lived life because they are fickle and fragile and will fail us one and all. In Christ, we are more than free from such things, we are free to engage in true life, a life that is well encapsulated by the other two quotes.

Love your family: Take that in the most literal sense, first and foremost, and then expand it to include those with whom you walk, whether your neighbors or those at work, school, church, or on your sports team. This is the great call on your life, and it is no small mission. Wake up in the morning and ask yourself, What



is it that I should be about this very day? We all want to live lives of meaning (to 'change the world') and here is our means for doing so. Love. Acts of love. Words of love.

Virtue: We all hope that if faced with a great heroic moment, we will find the inner courage to match (perhaps we would be the ones to run into the burning building to save those trapped within), but I would argue that is an irrelevant and frankly distracting mode of thought for two reasons. First, the chances that such an outwardly heroic moment comes your way are slim to none, and thus your opportunity to express virtue must be in the normal course of life. Second, there is no fake it to make it principle when it comes to being a virtuous person. It is an acquired skill that comes from habit and practice, and it must be done so in the daily grind of life.

And herein is the overall import of these wise words, the answer to the question posed above—How ought I then

to live? It is right there in front of me! The good life, a life of meaning, is to walk freely, in Christ, loving those whom the Lord sets before me, speaking and acting with virtue within the normal confines of daily life. That's it! We are still left with choices, of course, some quite large—school, career, and spouse. But what you do in those moments of large choice will be shaped by the hundreds of little choices you make along the way. So I urge my students to be free, love those around you, and practice the virtue you espouse.

THE TIME OF OUR LIVES: REFLECTIONS ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR

This year Headmaster Heaton is journaling notes on his blog about the Church's calendar year. Regularly from now through the spring, our Headmaster will post his reflections on the calendar, which you can read at the link here: newcovenantschools.org/my-ncs/blog/

QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2024 • Mike Lovell • Class of 2025
Neil Bohnert • Leslie Moeller • Bob Price
Leland Seckman • Dan Vollmer
Class of 2026 • John Gauger • Nancy Hall
Chris Misiano • Sam Mizener • Tom Rogers
Anne Umbarger

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

ART FAIR

PAINTING | MIXED MEDIA | SCULPTURE | PHOTOGRAPHY | FILM



Monday,
March 11

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR ART FAIR SUBMISSIONS:

- Students in K-12th grade may submit TWO PIECES of art in each of the five named categories.
- Student work grades 4-12 will be in the JUDGED art show.
- All submissions should be given directly to Miss Eshleman or Mr. Dunaway.
- Flat (2D) submissions should NOT be folded or on lined paper.
- Submissions MUST be unframed.
- All photography should be printed on photo quality paper (preferably 8 ½ x 11 or larger).
- Sculpture (3D) submissions should stand upright OR student should provide a base on which to stand the piece.
- Lego submissions will NOT be accepted.
- ALL pieces should be the CREATION of the student(s).
- Multiple students may collaborate on a single submission.

William Marotta (4th Grade), 2023 Submission

ALL submissions due Wednesday, February 14th

Parents who would like to volunteer to mat/hang work, please contact Hattie Eshleman at heshleman@newcovenantschools.org or Michael Dunaway at mdunaway@newcovenantschools.org.



matky poppins

February 22 – 7:00pm
February 23 – 7:00pm
February 24 – 2:00pm & 7:00pm
February 29 – 7:00pm
March 1 – 7:00pm
March 2 – 2:00pm & 7:00pm



Moomaw Center
Watch for ticketing information



flight

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS | 2023-24 DRAMA SEASON