



Gryphon Varsity Men's Basketball celebrates first-ever State Championship on Saturday in Richmond.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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THE VIRTUE OF HARD WORK: THE BIGGEST WIN OF THE YEAR

by John Heaton, Headmaster

It sneaked upon us when no one was looking, and few were aware. It was summertime, the off-season, the slow time when families travel, and the students take a break from the books. Some students, however, were honing their skills. **Corey Hackenbracht**, **Brey Welch** and many others in the cast of *Mary Poppins* were learning music for their parts with voice coach **Rick Jupin**—roles that they would not play for months in a production that only came to the stage in the last two weeks. **Mrs. Bailey**, our talented Choral Director began learning a score that she rated an 11 in difficulty on a ten-point scale!

Over in the fieldhouse the men's varsity basketball team and many of the JV players were busy in workouts. When they weren't practicing, they were competing in other leagues, working out in the weight room, and doing community service set up by head coach **Matt Klein**. They hosted guest speakers who shared their experience on leadership, character, and teamwork.

November finally arrived. Play rehearsals began and basketball got underway. Before Christmas our teams had played nearly ten games apiece with no losses. They were truly on pace for a magical season.

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WHAT'S NEW?

Our New Art Collection

Did you know that New Covenant has begun an art collection? Over the past several years the school has quietly been the recipient of several pieces. Last year board member **Sam Mizener** and his wife **Mary Ruth** donated an oil painting by **Chris Burch**. Last fall art teacher **Michael Dunaway** provided a magnificent painting of Sharp Top. The latest piece, a pencil drawing by **Allison Bryant** (allisonbryantfineart.com) depicting the hands of a mother and infant, has been gifted by **Dick Wilson**, a friend of the school. The piece is featured in the Grammar School hallway across from the orchestra room. We thank Mr. Wilson for his generosity in acquiring and framing the piece.



THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

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Competing in one of the toughest leagues in the Commonwealth, our men's varsity faces tough opponents in higher divisions (NCS is D-IV). That forces them to punch above their weight constantly, and in nearly every "overmatched" situation the Gryphons were competitive, losing a handful of games by less than a total of 15 points.

We were hardly prepared for what they showed us last week. Starting on Wednesday, the men entered the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA) State tournament facing an athletic Stuart Hall. Fans were nervous watching warm-ups and a bit dismayed to go down 3-zip in the opening minutes. The men gathered themselves closed it up and by halftime led by 21, a lead they would not relinquish. Senior **Cole Bowman** showed the way with a career high of 28 points, and the rest of the team missed only 12 shots the entire game.

That put the men at home on Friday to face St. Michael the Archangel Catholic, an extremely athletic team. Warm-ups again lit the nerves of our home crowd, but the discipline, the mental toughness, the determination, and most of all, the off-season work paid off. The Gryphons never trailed and closed it out by four points.

Our young men not only played with heart, but arguably put in their best performances ever. By beating both opponents in just three days, New Covenant was going to the VISAA State Championship game. This time they would face a stronger team from our own conference. Of the dozens of schools across the Commonwealth that could have made the finals, we drew the toughest card—Carlisle School

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ART AND PLAY

The following is a highlight list of student accomplishments in the fine arts and athletics.

ORCHESTRA

Joel Ng is the first New Covenant orchestra student to audition and be accepted into the Virginia All-State Honors Orchestra. In order to audition, a student must first be accepted to the Senior Regional Orchestra. As a freshman, Joel is ranked #29 in the Commonwealth for violin. Joel was also the Concerto Competition winner for the Lynchburg Symphony Youth Orchestra. This orchestra will give a concert on **Sunday, April 14** at the Academy of Music, at which time Joel will play the finale of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E Minor.

DRAMA

The Panache Players, under the direction of **Ethan Roberts**, assisted by **Melissa Bailey** and **Dillon Rumsey** supported the *Mary Poppins* cast through a record eight sold-out shows and more than 900 tickets sold.

JV BASKETBALL

The Women's JV Basketball Team won the BRAC Championship—the fourth team championship for New Covenant in the Blue Ridge Athletic Conference.

The Men's JV Basketball Team finished a 15-3 season and was a finalist in the conference championship. They registered the best JV record in school history.

VARSITY BASKETBALL

The Women's Varsity Basketball Team made the quarterfinals for the second consecutive year, but lost their bid to advance. They ended regular-season play with the #3 State Ranking in VISAA Division III and 17 wins on the season, second winningest record in school history. Team members **Brielle Walker** became the New Covenant women's career leader, passing 1,000 career points. **Ellie Jacobs** became the career leader in assists, and **Jocelyn Walker** became career leader in 3-pointers.

The Men's Varsity Basketball Team ended its regular season with the #2 State Ranking in VISAA Division IV and holds the new record for most wins in season with 21. **Douglas Powell** ('24) surpassed the 1,000 career points mark this year, and became New Covenant men's career leader in rebounds. **Cole Bowman** ('24), **Luke Libbey** ('24) and **Cole Murdock** ('26) achieved 500 career points. Cole Bowman became New Covenant men's career leader in assists. **Tristan Isenhour** ('26) now leads with the most assists in a single season. **Luke Libbey** set the record for the most 3-point shots made in a single season.

NEXT-LEVEL SIGNING

Luke Libbey has signed with Liberty University Golf Team (D-1). **Mary Glenn Morse** has signed to compete in acrobatics and tumbling with Presbyterian College (D-1) in Clinton, SC.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

ONLINE ENROLLMENT PACKET REVIEW

Today be looking for an email from **Linda Simon** with instructions to complete student's Online Enrollment Information Review Packet, which can be found on FACTS under Apply/Enroll or on the app under Online Enrollment Information Review. **This packet is required to be completed for all students.** Please reach out to Linda at Lsimon@newcovenantschools.org with any questions.

HANDS & HEARTS

Sponsorship packets are due this Friday, March 8. Thank you for your help in the success of our service day.

WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

The award ceremonies for our JV/Varsity winter sports teams and athletes will be held on **Wednesday, March 6 at 12:40pm** in the Workman Field House. Families are welcome to attend.

ART & SCIENCE FAIR

Plan to join us **Monday, March 11** for the Art & Science Fair. Come out and view the artistic endeavors of our students and enjoy watching them compete in various science challenges. Art viewing will begin at 5:30pm, and science challenges will start around 6:00pm. Hot dog combo meals will be available to purchase. This is an enjoyable event for the whole family and one not to miss.

END OF QUARTER

The 3rd quarter will end on **Friday, March 15.** Report cards will be emailed to parents on **Friday, March 22.**

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found bins are purged at the end of each quarter. Be sure to check for any lost items before **Friday, March 15.**

JEANS AND GREENS DAY

Although St. Patrick's Day falls on a weekend, students and faculty/staff are invited to celebrate **Monday, March 18** by wearing a green shirt with jeans or regular uniform bottoms. (As always, shoes must be closed-toe shoes and jeans must be free of rips and tears.)

LUNCH ORDERING

April school lunch ordering is now open. Mondays feature two exciting additions—Chick-fil-A 8-piece Nuggets and Chick-fil-A Spicy Chicken Sandwich for \$5 each. Other days offer Creamy Chicken and Noodles, Hot Dogs, Southern Style Chicken Nuggets, and Burgers. Order from **March 1-15.** Be mindful of field trips in April and avoid ordering on those days, but canceled orders will be credited automatically. Please, notify the lunchroom by 9:00am if your child is absent. 4Q school milk plan billing (\$35) starts **March 18.** Questions? Contact **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

SPRING BREAK

Spring Break will begin on **Monday, March 25** and continue through **Monday,**

April 1. Students will return to school on **Tuesday, April 2.**

NATIONAL LATIN EXAMS

The National Latin Exam will be proctored during the school day to all Latin classes in grades 7-12 on **Monday, March 11.** The NLE is given on six different levels to match the Latin experience at each grade level. We will receive notice of honors earned by students later in the spring and awards will be presented at end-of-year assemblies.

GENERATIONS DAY

On the morning of **Friday, March 15,** grandparents and other special guests are invited to join students in class for Generations Day. **There will be an 11am dismissal on this day.**

SAVE THE DATE FOR HANDS & HEARTS

Our schoolwide service day will be **Wednesday, April 17.** Parents are welcome to work alongside students completing tasks for area nonprofit groups. Watch for more information in the next few weeks.

EVENSONG

All Saints is hosting Evensong (sung Evening Prayer) every Wednesday in Lent beginning at 6.30pm in the school chapel. Each service is followed by a soup and salad supper in the Grammar School Commons. **Lukas Stock** will give a Lenten meditation after the supper. All are invited!



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from Martinsville.

Carlisle has had a dominant season and is a team that recruits heavily. This same team defeated the Gryphons earlier this year by 11 points, after leading by almost 30 points for parts of the game. Laying that aside, we traveled to Richmond to face them a final time. Our guys laid it all on the court. Playing their best basketball with skyrocketing shooting percentages, the boys led by a stunning 20 points in the third quarter. **Matt Klein**, who has coached us to more than one win against better talent was crucial in this game. Carlisle was staggered, but not out of it. They were talented and chipped into the lead on Gryphon turnovers through the fourth quarter, eventually moving ahead by one point with only ten seconds to go. On the final inbound it was **Cole Bowman** who found an opening to the basket with a layup that hit high off the glass. It missed, but miraculously, **Cole Murdock** followed the shot for a tap-in that saw the ball go through the net as time expired to win the game.

The unbelievable had happened (think of the movie "Hoosiers").



Cole Murdock's buzzer beater for the State Championship!

New Covenant won its first VISAA state championship in any sport in the school's history. The video of the last shot went viral on social media.

Meanwhile, over in the Moomaw Center, the Panache Players staged eight showings of *Mary Poppins*, all to sold-out audiences, setting a record of over 900 tickets sold. It was arguably one of our best. **Ethan Roberts**, our first full-time drama instructor, spent hours directing it. On Thursday, our accompanist, **Melissa Bailey**, became ill but pushed the meds and pushed the music . . . for three hours each show! After the performance she would go home, ice her wrists, put her hands in braces and fall into bed. Few schools boast of a professional staff that could pull this off "live."

Those efforts supported a well-polished cast of twenty students. Led by **Brey Welch** (*Mary Poppins*), **Corey Hackenbracht** (Bert), **Noah Caldwell** (Mr. Banks) and **Nicole Clark** (Mrs. Banks), the cast brought drama to a new level at New Covenant. And who



could forget the near show-stealing performance by **Lizzie Bryant** (Mrs. Andrew/Mrs. Corey), who in two minor roles lit the stage with her presence and voice.

This week we can be proud of our colleagues and students who not only carry academic loads, but who have invested themselves in the co-curriculars that add so much to the life of the school. They have embraced the vision of their faculty and coaches, bought into the program, and put in the hard work necessary to reap the reward of superior performance (see page 2 for more highlights). Sure, our students are talented, but these results only come when raw talent is developed by a strong work ethic sustained over time. And *that* is the biggest win we celebrate today.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund/Permanent Things	\$100,000	\$88,378
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$54,836
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$432,600 <i>Received</i> \$407,970

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.

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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