



Scenes from the Art & Science Fair of 2023. Tonight's Art & Science Fair information inside.



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

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## SENIOR THESIS AND THE QUESTIONS OF ULTIMATE SIGNIFICANCE

by Starlet Baker, SOR Faculty, Senior Thesis Advisor

Flannery O'Connor once said, "I write because I do not know what I think until I read what I say." This sentiment is so foundational to the Senior Thesis process that we've put it in our thesis manual. At first glance, this quotation is perplexing because thinking would seem to precede writing. With her characteristic wit, O'Connor has communicated the chicken-and-egg riddle of writing deeply and carefully about the deeper significance of everyday things. In undertaking a project like senior thesis, students encounter the wisdom of O'Connor's expression.

The path to this kind of deeper understanding is a long one. Students chose a topic at the end of

their junior year and read about it over the summer. Then, at the beginning of the senior year, the real work began. There was more reading and more researching and writing, and rewriting and discussion and rewriting, and revising of plans that weren't well executed, and rewriting again. Oh yes, and more rewriting.

It is probably more accurate to say, however, that the journey began even further back, as far back as Kindergarten. First the students learned phonograms, which taught them that combinations of letters have meaning beyond just the sound each individual letter makes. In Grammar School, students learned to put sentences into organized clusters known as paragraphs. In so doing, they learned that

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### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Hands & Hearts Update

Thank you to those who have completed and returned Hands & Hearts sponsorship packets. The list of incentive prizes is growing to include a large outdoor trampoline with a net enclosure and a *Meanwhile Back on the Farm* clutch purse. Families will receive a chance to win one

of these prizes by returning sponsorship letters this week. Each completed letter receives one ticket. Tickets will come home with the youngest student in each family on **April 8** and will be collected during the lunch period from **April 9-11**. A schoolwide assembly on

**April 12** will announce the winners of the prizes along with the winner of this year's t-shirt art. If you have not returned your packet, please bring it to the office as soon as possible. For questions, please contact **Dayna Renalds** at [drenalds@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:drenalds@newcovenantschools.org).

# H O N O R A R I A

## SENIOR THESIS TITLES

- **Cole Bowman**, *"More Than Just a Game: The Role of Sports in Developing Life Skills"*
- **Beau Brady**, *"Lives of Great Men: Individual Allied Soldiers in World War II and Why They Should be Studied"*
- **Noah Caldwell**, *"Conservation Banking: The Hope for the Endangered Species Act"*
- **Nicole Clark**, *"God's Design for Marriage and Family: The Crisis of No-Fault Divorce"*
- **Claire Copenhaver**, *"The Moral Dilemma: The Problem of Holding Intelligent Animals in Captivity"*
- **Micah Cortez**, *"The ABC's of ABA: The Reasons Why ABA is Effective for Children with Autism"*
- **Zach Dixon**, *"Revealing the Advantages of Gasoline Vehicles Over Electric Alternatives"*
- **Adora Hampton**, *"Mind Over Matter: The Untapped Potential of the Human Mind Over the Body"*
- **Ally Horne**, *"The Modern Overemphasis of Romance: The Importance of Loving Platonic Relationships"*
- **Saria Hostetler**, *"The Misuse of Cultural Relativism: Getting Past the Mirage of Cultural Authenticity"*
- **Mae Jacobs**, *"Vietnam to Iraq: The Lessons We Learned"*
- **Olivia Kidd**, *"The Downfall of Human Character: How Situations and Circumstances Affect Morals"*
- **Piper Knapton**, *"Fair Treatment for Addicted Pregnant Women: Addiction is a Disease and Requires Many Forms of Treatment"*
- **Diego Leal**, *"A Stain on the Soul: Exposing the Immorality of the Death Penalty"*
- **Luke Libbey**, *"The Problems with Youth Sports Specialization: How it Harms Our Kids"*
- **Colin Mather**, *"Absolute Power: Lenin and His Legacy"*
- **Caleb McCormick**, *"The Dam Problem: There is a Good Dam Solution"*
- **Kate McCurley**, *"Using Learning Styles and Differentiated Instruction in Education"*
- **Mary Glenn Morse**, *"What's the Game Plan: The Importance of Implementing Mental Health Care Tactics in Sports"*
- **Virginia Morse**, *"The Broken System: A Discussion of the Failing Organ Donation System and the Establishment of a Commercialized Market"*
- **Douglas Powell**, *"Exposing the Headlines: Unmasking the Truth Behind CTE Research"*
- **Selah Ragland**, *"Blood on Our Hands: The Policies that Are Killing our Children"*
- **Sarah Robert**, *"Go With the Flow: Incorporating Tai Chi into all Physical Exercise Routines"*
- **Andrew Rogers**, *"Electrifying the Road: How to Lessen the Emissions Impact of Electric Vehicles"*
- **Abby Rose**, *"The Feminist Irony: Why Transgender Ideology is Harming Women"*
- **Charlotte Seay**, *"The Problem of Human Suffering"*
- **Irelyn Uminn**, *"The Unconscious Mind: Integrated with Evolutionary Naturalism and the Theistic Worldview"*
- **Daniel VanVoorhis**, *"Climate Change: The Exaggerated Issue of the Modern Age"*
- **Brielle Walker**, *"The Effects of Cancer and Need for Psychotherapy"*



## WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

### SWIM

Most Improved

**Addie Ruhl**

Gryphon Award

**Emily Trautman**

MVP

**Declund Stevenson**

### JV GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Most Improved

**Emme Sue Foster**

Gryphon Award

**Emma Haupricht**

MVP

**Hannah Edwards**

### VARSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Most Improved

**Charlotte Libbey**

Gryphon Award

**Piper Knapton**

MVP

**Brielle Walker**

### JV BOYS' BASKETBALL

Most Improved

**Ian Walker**

Gryphon Award

**Noah McCormick**

MVP

**Rusty Hooks**

### VARSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL

Most Improved

**Cole Murdock**

Gryphon Award

**Micah Cortez**

MVP

**Douglas Powell**

# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

### ONLINE ENROLLMENT PACKET REVIEW

If you have not done so, please take a moment and complete the Online Enrollment Information Review Packet, which can be found on FACTS under Apply/Enroll or on the App under Online Enrollment Information Review. Completion of this review packet is mandatory for all returning students and **must be finalized no later than Monday, March 18**. For details and instructions, refer to the email sent by **Linda Simon** on **Monday, March 4**. Please reach out to Linda at [Lsimon@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:Lsimon@newcovenantschools.org) with any questions.

### END OF QUARTER

The Third Quarter will end this **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. The ordering period ends this

### ART & SCIENCE FAIR



Plan to join us tonight 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.

**Friday, March 15**. Be mindful of field trips in April and avoid ordering lunch on those days. Canceled orders will be credited automatically. Please notify the lunchroom by 9:00am if your child is absent. Fourth Quarter school milk plan billing (\$35) starts **March 18**. Questions? Contact **Debbie Williamson** at [dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org).

### GENERATIONS DAY

Grandparents and other special guests are invited to join students in class this **Friday, March 15**. Light refreshments and coffee will be provided in the library. **There will be an 11am dismissal on this day.**

### 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**.

### LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Current and alumni women are invited to join the Ladies' Book Study on "*The Four Loves*" by C.S. Lewis. The study is facilitated by Davidson Morse and is

held biweekly on Thursdays at 7:00pm in the New Covenant library. Meetings are scheduled for **April 4 & 18** and **May 2 & 16**. Before the first meeting on April 4, please read the following chapters: Introduction, Likings and Loves for the Sub-Human, and Affection. We look forward to seeing you there.

### EVENSONG

All Saints is hosting Evensong (sung Evening Prayer) every Wednesday in Lent beginning at 6.30pm in the Marie Macdonald 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!

## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

### COLLEGE COFFEE HOUSE

All interested 10th and 11th grade students are invited to attend the Asuza Pacific University presentation on **Thursday, March 14** from 8:00-8:30am in L1. Email [shester@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:shester@newcovenantschools.org) to reserve your spot.

### MIDWEEK MADNESS

All 7th-12th grade NCS athletes are welcome to attend Midweek Madness, starting this **Wednesday, March 13**. This event will begin with supervised physical rejuvenation in the Fitness Center starting at 3:15pm followed by a time of engaging gameplay on the NCS fields until 4:45pm.

### EARLY DISMISSAL

All School of Rhetoric students will be **dismissed at 12:30 pm on Friday, March 22** after the final thesis presentation.

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sentences have greater meaning when connected to other sentences. As the students grew, so did their appreciation for patterns in science, in music, in mathematics, and in the humanities. In Logic classes and Rhetoric classes students learned to make meaning from these patterns and to argue towards an interpretation of the greater significance of these patterns across the disciplines. Senior thesis, then, is the culminating masterpiece for which students utilize all these tools they've sharpened along their educational journey.

A quick glance over this year's thesis titles (see Honoraria, page 2) reveals a class of vastly different interests: students have written about everything from the role of the unconscious mind to the ethical treatment of animals to the importance of friendship to the superiority of a workout regime that incorporates tai chi to the morality of the death penalty to the meaning of human suffering in a world God called good. Yes, there has been great struggle in the process of refining their thoughts

and sharpening their discernment, but as Francis Su says in *Mathematics for Human Flourishing*, "Every human longing contains at its core a question of ultimate significance."

Senior thesis feels strenuous and uncomfortable because it is an opportunity to work an underdeveloped muscle group, a muscle group not used in a Google-dominated world conditioned to receive and discard randomly unrelated content. Much like the man emerging from Plato's cave who struggles in the sudden brightness of the sun, so too the student who wrestles with finding the greater significance of a chosen topic struggles under this new experience. When asked about the time-consuming process of carefully crafting such in-depth documentaries, Ken Burns responded, "Meaning accrues in duration." This is precisely what students have done. They have endured the ups and downs of the thesis process to discern the greater significance of themselves as creatures made in the image of God, and of their topics. The point of senior thesis is to

discover what is revealed about ourselves in the process. The point of senior thesis is to know that the interests we have in climate change, in electric cars, in World War II veterans, and in sports all matter because they point to a greater truth—THE great Truth that gives significance to all the smaller things.

## QUID NOVI

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

NEW COVENANT schools

# MOMS' NIGHT OUT

FRIDAY, APRIL 5  
5:30-10:00PM

Our annual Moms' Night  
Out will be held on Friday,  
April 5 from 5:30-10:00pm  
in the comfortable offices  
of Dan and Rachel Vollmer

Dwell Realty  
221 Wiggington Road



**Keith McCurdy** with Total Life Counseling will be kicking off the evening by helping us think about how to build sturdy children in practical ways. Keith visited our school in the fall and left us with valuable advice as parents. He will be able to take questions and give answers moms can use in daily interactions with children.

Afterwards, there will be plenty of time to eat and relax while playing trivia and board games. The event is free and open to all moms. Come and enjoy the evening with us!

To register click the following link: [https://bit.ly/moms\\_night2024](https://bit.ly/moms_night2024)