

Men's varsity lacrosse in action with a win against Rockingham last week.



THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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WHY CAN'T I PICK MY CHILD'S TEACHER?

by Marion Patterson, Grammar School Principal

Way back in the old days, I went to high school in a small town. I remember two distinct experiences with math teachers. One of them I liked. He was easygoing, brilliant, new to our town, and different from most of the other teachers we'd had over the years. Given a choice, I'd have picked him, and I soon landed in his advanced math class. It was clear that he loved math and was able to teach it, but pretty soon, he got my number. I wasn't interested in engaging with him on the topic at hand. He did what several others over the years had done with me. He

let me go my own way, let me be the person I thought I should be. The result was C's for me in the class, despite the fact that I skipped many assignments and did poorly on tests. After all, I was a *bona fide* member of the National Honor Society. Seems he just played along and gave me the best grades he could justify to himself. In so many ways, I had gotten exactly what I had chosen—the fun teacher, little work, and a grade that did not keep me from honors. I don't remember his name.

I also experienced another math teacher, a lady

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WHAT'S NEW?

Hands & Hearts Food Drive

New Covenant will be collecting food and toiletry items for use during our Hands & Hearts event. As part of our schoolwide service day, our youngest students will be helping to create bags of food and other items for those who visit the Salvation Army. Please consider donating the following items for our use:

- Peanut butter
- Canned ravioli (with pop-top lid)
- Canned meat and fish (with pop-top lid)—chicken, tuna, salmon
- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Canned peas
- Cereal—Kix, Chex, Cheerios, Fruit Loops, etc.
- Small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion
- Small bars of soap
- Individual toothbrushes
- Small tubes of toothpaste

Please bring your items to the collection site in the school's front lobby now through the morning of **Wednesday, April 17**. Everything donated will be taken to the Salvation Army and processed by our students during Hands & Hearts, and will be appreciated by those in our community.

H O N O R A R I A

ROSE AND MCCORMICK NOMINATED FOR ETHICS AWARD

Each year the Lynchburg Rotary Club honors young men and women in their senior year of high school who best exemplify the motto of “Service Above Self” as seen through their diligent stewardship of

talents, trustworthy character, and thankful spirit. We are pleased to announce that this year’s faculty and staff nominations for the Code of Ethics Award are **Abigail Rose** and **Caleb McCormick**.



Abigail
Rose



Caleb
McCormick

2024 SUMMER CAMPS

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL CAMP / RISING 2ND - 5TH GRADE GIRLS / JUNE 3 - JUNE 7

The American Girl Doll Camp will run for one week, **Monday, June 3 - Friday, June 7** from 9am-12:30 pm. The cost is \$225 and the deadline to sign up is May 19. After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account that **must be paid by May 31, 2024**. This camp is limited to 15 girls and you will receive an email confirming a spot after registering. <https://forms.office.com/r/zn0iCbJKZ5>

STRINGS CAMP / RISING 4TH- 12TH GRADERS / JUNE 3 - JUNE 7

Joe Nigro will lead one week of Strings Camp for rising 4th through 12th grade students. The camp will run **Monday, June 3 - Friday, June 7, 9am-12pm**. The cost is \$150 and payment should be made on the first day of camp. Checks should be made payable to “James Chambers Players”. Please contact Joe Nigro at jnigro@newcovenantschools.org

if you have any questions regarding the camp. <https://forms.office.com/r/Nr1cAb3nTe>

DRAMA CAMP 1 / SHAKESPEARE'S *TAMING OF THE SHREW* / RISING 7TH - 12TH GRADERS / JUNE 10 - JUNE 14

Drama director Ethan Roberts will hold this camp for one week, **Monday, June 10 - Friday, June 14** from 9am-3pm. The cost is \$250 and the **deadline to sign up is May 24**. After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account that **must be paid by June 7, 2024**. A performance will be held on the evening of **June 14**. <https://forms.office.com/r/Ff6uTYG0jM>

DRAMA CAMP 2 / *DOROTHY AND THE WIZARD OF OZ* / RISING 3RD - 6TH GRADERS / JUNE 17 - JUNE 21

Students will learn to work collaboratively as we bring Oz to the stage **Monday, June 17 - Friday, June 21** from 9am-1pm. The cost is \$200 and the **deadline to sign up is May 24**.

After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account that **must be paid by June 7, 2024**. A performance will be held on the evening of **June 21**. <https://forms.office.com/r/YwD51kcHRU>

STAYFIT CAMP / RISING 1ST - 7TH GRADERS / TWO SESSIONS

Our annual StayFit Camp will be offered in two sessions this year. The first session will be held **June 17-27**, Monday through Thursday each week with no camp on Fridays. The second session will be held **July 8-18**, Monday through Thursday each week with no camp on Fridays. The cost is \$150 for a two-week session for the first child in a family and \$50 for each additional sibling. The cost is \$250 for a four-week session for the first child in a family and \$75 for each additional sibling. **The deadline to sign up is Friday, May 24**. After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account that **must be paid by June 14, 2024**. <https://forms.office.com/r/gh8f7HnS4W>

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. **Completion of this review packet is mandatory for all returning students and is past due.** Once you have completed the packet, you will receive a confirmation email and the status on FACTS will be marked submitted. If you have not received an email, the packet is not finished, so please take a moment and make sure you have hit the Review and Finish icon. 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 with any questions.

LUNCH ORDERING

It's time to order lunch for May. It's the last time this school year, so don't delay! The time to order is **April 5-19**. Featured items include the Gryphon Griddler, Hot Dogs, and Chicken Nuggets. May has a few field trips, so don't order for those days. Kindergarteners and Seniors end the year a little earlier than the rest, so you may need to adjust your orders accordingly.

HANDS & HEARTS

Thank you to those who have returned sponsorship packets to the office. Tickets have come home with the youngest student in each family today and will be collected at lunch on **April 10-11** with prize drawings to be held on **April 12**. If you have not returned your packet and would like to participate, please bring it to the office completed as soon as possible.

THANK YOU

Over 100 families participated in the Kroger community rewards program last quarter. New Covenant Schools was the recipient of \$942! Thank you to all who participated. To link your Kroger plus card with New Covenant Schools, visit www.kroger.com to create an account or sign in and choose community rewards. Our organization code is IX901.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WEAR

Order your '24 VISAA DIV IV State Champions gear today. Hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and more for men, women and kids. Deadline to order is midnight on **Wednesday, April 10**. Place your order thru Play-it-Again Sports: <https://ncsstatechamps.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

SAVE THE DATE

The Middle School will present *Peter Pan* on **May 10 & 11**. Tickets will go on sale for the general public on **Monday, April 15**.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FIELD DAY

Our annual Field Day will be on **Thursday, May 23**. This event is for our Grammar School students in grades K-4. If your student in grades K-4 will NOT be attending, please email **Amanda Gunn** at amandaLgunn@gmail.com. Knowing who will or will not be here helps when dividing teams. Parent volunteers are needed to make this fun day possible! If you would like to participate as a parent volunteer, please sign up via Signup Genius at this link: https://bit.ly/Field_Day2024. Please make sure to select a t-shirt size when signing up.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

SAT TESTING

New Covenant will be proctoring the spring SAT for juniors on **Tuesday, April 23** during the school day. Juniors do not need to register online to take this test. Information regarding payment and other details have been emailed.

CLASSIC LEARNING TEST 10 (CLT10)

New Covenant will be proctoring the spring CLT10 for sophomores on **Tuesday, April 16** during the school day. Sophomores do not need to register online to take this test.



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	TOTAL RAISED
<i>Hands & Hearts</i>	\$50,000	\$35,206

GIVING IS EASY

Thank you to all who have given so generously to New Covenant Schools. Your gifts are appreciated and will be used to further the mission of our school. Donations may be given throughout the year through cash, check, stock transfers or IRA distributions. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent that the law provides. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the development office.

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of a certain age, a staunch Methodist whose first name was Unity. Her family had lived in town for generations, and we all knew what to expect from her. She was teaching Euclidian Geometry, the kind with the logical proofs of underlying math principles. On the first days of class, I presented with my usual disengaged, “too cool for school” persona. She asked me to come back after school to meet with her, where she pleasantly re-explained the lesson concepts I had missed. I don’t recall what she said, but no one had ever asked me to come in after school for help before. The light bulb came on and I fell in love. Not with her, but with logic. I did proofs for fun and solved logic puzzles in my free time. This predictable teacher who was willing to overcome my resistance and provide me the support I needed had created a lover of something that was good.

This little story illustrates the most basic reason why New Covenant does

not allow parents to pick which teacher’s class their students are assigned to. Children are prone to reach for the shiny, gold ring, seek the easy path, and avoid accountability. We as parents want to make them happy, so we respond to their requests for the things they want, sometimes even when we know they are not in their long-term best interests.

At New Covenant, we train and encourage all of our teachers to be predictable and supportive, as Miss Unity was for me. All of them have had those experiences of creating or encouraging a love of something good in a child. Those are great teacher memories that fuel their passion for connecting with students and ideas.

Because all of our teachers are predictable and supportive to learners, I am confident in assigning your child (or my own grandchild) to any one them. If I weren’t, I’d be finding ways to address the problem with the teacher. We strive

to achieve what our Headmaster calls the “monolithic front,” meaning that every classroom feels the same, so that the student experience year over year has continuity. The particular gifts of a teacher and her personality are in play, of course, and will largely explain observable differences, but those differences do not distract from the fundamentally unified culture of all our classrooms.

Our strategy for building class sections is to learn as much as we can about each child and seek to balance class sections for a peaceful and successful school year for all. We consider balancing boys and girls, we think about including at least one known friend for each child in a section, and we mix students over the years so that they make new friends. What we don’t do is separate students who seem to be higher achievers from lower achievers, because we plan to work to bring everyone to mastery of skills and content.

SPRING SPORTS IN FULL SWING



Varsity golf team members Lucas Gorman and Cole Bowman in a match with Eastern Mennonite HS on March 19.



Ellie Jacobs and Breezy Knight finish first and second in their 100M heat at VES on Friday.

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

NEW COVENANT schools

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

Master Academic Calendar

Parent Edition

June 2024 - June 2025

2024

June

Date	Day of Week	Event
3-7	Monday-Friday	American Girl Doll Camp, Girls Grades Rising 2-5, 9am – 12pm Strings Camp, Grades Rising 5-12, 9am – 12pm
10-14	Monday-Friday	Drama Camp, Grades Rising 7-12
17-21	Monday-Friday	Drama Camp, Grades Rising 3-6
25	Tuesday	Uniform Sale, 4pm-6pm
17-27	Mondays-Thursdays	Stay Fit Camp - Grades Rising 1-7, 9am – 12pm

July

Date	Day of Week	Event
8-18	Mondays-Thursdays	Stay Fit Grades Rising 1-7, 9:00 – 12:00pm
23	Tuesday	Uniform Sale, 4pm-6pm
25	Thursday	New Family Picnic, 5:30-7pm
29	Monday	JV/Varsity Sports Begin
7/29 – 8/2	Monday-Friday	Pursuit Camp, Grades Rising 5-8 (new students only), 9am-12:45pm

August

Date	Day of Week	Event
6	Tuesday	Post-Placement Meeting, 7pm
11	Sunday	Convocation, Location TBD
12	Monday	First Day of School For Rhetoric, 8:00 am Meet Your Teacher for Grades Pre-K – 8, 3:30-6:00 pm
14	Wednesday	First Day of School For Grammar School & Middle School, 8:00 am Tears and Cheers, 8:00-8:45 am Noon Dismissal for Pre-K, Kindergarten & First Grade Only
15	Thursday	MS (Grades 7-8) Fall Sport Season Begins
21	Wednesday	Jr. Gryphons (Grades 5-6) Fall Sports Season Begins

September

Date	Day of Week	Event
2	Monday	Labor Day – No School
6	Friday	Back to School Picnic
11	Wednesday	Progress Reports
12	Thursday	7-8 Grade Retreat
13	Friday	5-6 Grade Retreat
30	Monday	School of Rhetoric Poetry Recital

October

Date	Day of Week	Event
3-4	Thursday-Friday	School of Rhetoric Washington DC Trip
4	Friday	The Blessing of the Animals, GS and MS
9	Wednesday	1 st Quarter Ends for SoR
11	Friday	1st Quarter End for GS and MS GS Poetry Recital
14-16	Monday-Wednesday	Fall Break-No School
17	Thursday	Students Return
18	Friday	Report Cards
25	Friday	A Latte Poetry for Middle School, 7:00 pm
26	Saturday	School of Rhetoric Barn Bash
28	Monday	Winter Sports Begin

November

Date	Day of Week	Event
1	Friday	No School, K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 12:30-6:00 pm XC/VB Conferences
13	Wednesday	Fall Sports Awards
15	Friday	Progress Reports
25-29	Monday-Friday	Thanksgiving Break – No School

December

Date	Day of Week	Event
16	Monday	The Service of Lessons & Carols 7:00 pm
17	Tuesday	Late Start – 9:00 am
19	Thursday	GS Christmas Program 9:15am 11am Dismissal – Christmas Break Begins
12/20-1/3	Friday-Friday	2 nd Quarter Ends for SoR Christmas Break – No School

2025

January

Date	Day of Week	Event
6	Monday	Students Return
6-14	Monday-Tuesday	J Term in School of Rhetoric
10	Friday	Homecoming Middle School Spelling Bee 2 nd Quarter ends for Grammar School & Middle School
15	Tuesday	School of Rhetoric ONLY – No School
17	Friday	Report Cards
20	Monday	Martin Luther King Day – No School
25	Saturday	School of Rhetoric Cotillion & Jr. Presentation Ceremony

February

Date	Day of Week	Event
12	Wednesday	Progress Reports
13-17	Thursday-Mon	Winter Break – No School
14-15	Friday-Sat	State Swim Meet
18	Tuesday	Students Return
21-22	Friday-Sat	Panache Presents
24	Monday	Spring Sports Begin

March

Date	Day of Week	Event
3/28-4/1	Friday-Sat	Panache Presents
5	Wednesday	Winter Sports Awards
10	Monday	Art and Science Fair
14	Friday	3 rd Quarter Ends for Grammar and Middle School
14	Friday	Generations Day, 11am Dismissal
17-21	Monday-Friday	Easter/Spring Break – No School
25	Tuesday	3 rd Quarter Ends for School of Rhetoric
27	Thursday	Thesis Defense
28	Friday	Thesis Defense and Reception
28	Friday	Report Cards

April

Date	Day of Week	Event
17	Thursday	Maunder Thursday, Noon Dismissal
18-21	Friday-Monday	Easter Break, No School
22	Tuesday	Students Return
23	Wednesday	Hands & Hearts Progress Reports
24	Thursday	Post-Placement Meeting, 7pm

May

Date	Day of Week	Event
5	Monday	<i>May Breather – No School</i>
9-10	Friday-Saturday	Middle School Play
12	Monday	Middle School Spring Concert
14	Wednesday	Spring Athletic Awards
15	Thursday	Passing of the Torch Ceremony Last Day for Seniors
19	Monday	School of Rhetoric Spring Concert
22	Thursday	4 th Quarter Ends Kindergarten Graduation, 10 am & <i>Kindergarten Last Day</i> <i>School of Rhetoric Last Day, 3pm Dismissal</i>
23	Friday	Grammar School Concert, 8:15am Field Day, 1 st -4 th Grades <i>Middle School Last Day, Noon Dismissal</i> Graduation Rehearsal, 3:30pm (Seniors and select SoR faculty required to attend) School of Rhetoric Spring Dance, 7:00pm
24	Saturday	Commencement, 2:00 pm
26-31	Monday-Saturday	Senior Class Trip
30	Friday	Report Cards