



Varsity Men's Lacrosse in a tough battle against North Cross last week.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

APRIL 7, 2025
VOL. 27 NO. 26 MAJORIS

FROM REVOLUTION TO DECADENCE

by John Heaton, Headmaster

Few people have heard of him, but he's one of my favorite authors—Eugene Rosenstock-Huessy. Born in Germany, he led troops at the Battle of Verdun in WWI. With a PhD in linguistic philosophy, he emigrated to the United States during the rise of Hitler, and taught at Harvard. The powers then present were uncomfortable with his Christianity, which was intellectual and formidable, so he finished his long career at Dartmouth. Most of his writings were published posthumously by his students in the 1980s, which was when I discovered him.

ERH, as we affectionately refer to him, taught us many things, and a key paradigm of his thinking was what he called the “cross of reality.” He maintained that we live our lives in four directions: backward-forward, and in-out. That is, we maintain a temporal relationship to the past and to the future, and a spatial relationship to others, the “in-group” and the “out-group.” We order time and space largely through speech—through language—which is how we express boundaries and constructs that are otherwise only conceptual. A balanced life is lived at the intersection

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WHAT'S NEW?

Gentle Folk Podcast

After many conversations with our staff throughout the year, New Covenant has embarked on its latest initiative to produce a podcast that centers on conversations around classical, Christian education. For years, I have written letters, emails and QUID NOVI articles, addressed to the community simply as “Gentle folk,” largely unaware that this salutation was to become a signal feature of the communication complex that has grown at the school. I don't know why I chose this term of endearment for our parents and students, but it fell out more than two decades ago, and sounded better than the anodyne greeting, “Dear parents.” When we decided to create a podcast, I queried the staff as to what we should call it. They instantly said, “Why, Gentle Folk, of course.” The podcast will live in the [Media Library](#) of our website for now, but you will also receive a text each month with a link for a quick way to listen at your leisure. Watch for the link, grab a cup of coffee and a snack, and please take the time to listen each month. You will get to know our school and appreciate its community on a different level through this new venue.



H O N O R A R I A

HONORS FOR 3RD QUARTER 2024-2025 SCHOOLS OF RHETORIC AND DIALECTIC

THE HEADMASTER'S LIST

Summa cum laude

Brey Welch, 12	Corey Hackenbracht, 12	John Brophy, 12	Ellie Jacobs, 12
Jenna Ng, 12	James Brophy, 12	Jocelyn Walker, 12	Melia Leitner, 12
Cora Helm, 12	Declund Stevenson, 12	Mary Place, 12	Lizzie Bryant, 12
Noah McCormick, 12	Ashe Smith, 11	Enoch Tan, 11	Grace Brady, 11
Andre Frenchik, 11	Ryleigh Taylor, 11	Rusty Hooks, 11	Alicia Kenny, 11
Joseph Robert, 10	Ian Gill, 10	Caden Smith, 10	Elora Williams, 10
Emma Haupricht, 10	Charlotte Libbey, 10	Charlotte McCarty, 10	Joel Ng, 10
Ellia Ramsey, 10	Kendall Morrell, 9	Elena Andrade, 9	Naomi Rigg, 9
Josiah Thornhill, 9	Xander Arbaugh-Turner, 9	Ava Boettger, 9	Peter Brophy, 9
Charis Durand, 9	Lucy Kirshberger, 9	Lizzie Miller, 9	

THE DEAN'S LIST

Magna cum laude

Jack Duncan, 12	John Scruggs, 12	Lizzy Deneen, 12	Graham Kowalski, 12
Ella Dudley, 11	Gia Barlow, 11	Emma Kate Lovell, 11	Micah Xayavong, 11
Luke Cordes, 11	Alara Gezen, 11	Eva Andrade, 11	Sarah McCurley, 11
Graden Bolton, 11	Embry Carlton, 10	Ruby Helm, 10	Hannah Edwards, 10
Journey Lancaster, 10	Avery Harrison, 10	Judah Weber, 10	Nick Richmond, 10
Elle Vollmer, 9	Sol Knapton, 9	Christian Henson, 9	Wyatt Copenhaver, 9
Leila Kenny, 9	Reese Mahle, 9	Mindy Morse, 9	Elle Shesko, 9

Cum laude

Emma Fritz, 12	Ellie Bonebright, 12	Lucas Gorman, 12	Stone Haibach, 11
Ayla Gezen, 11	Olivia Hostetler, 11	Rosa East, 11	Walt Gill, 11
Wyatt Renalds, 11	Michael Seckman, 10	Kelly Hoskins, 10	John-Paul Gauger, 10
Britton Basten, 9	Kate Cordes, 9	Whitney Bailey, 9	Addie Ruhl, 9
Claire Hansen, 9	Emma Christian, 9	Alina Gieszczykiewicz, 9	

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summa cum laude

Idella Olmsted, 8	Claire Reynolds, 8	Bryce Hampton, 8	Chloe Brophy, 7
Kalisteth Burrows, 7	Eleanor Bebko Lane, 7	Emilia Andrade, 7	Tinley Tucker, 7

Magna cum laude

Judah Durand, 8	Gwen Kesler, 8	Micah Harrison, 8	Isaiah Tan, 7
Nora Misiano, 7	Elise Williams, 7	Landis Hoskins, 7	Annalise Gutenkauf, 7
Lina Bengds, 7	Tye Boettger, 7		

Cum laude

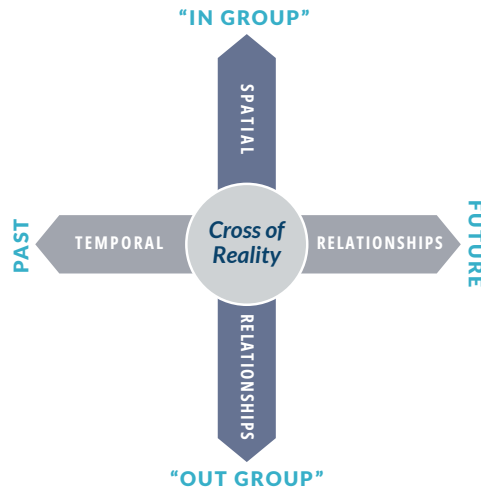
Lillian Richmond, 8	Eleanore Seckman, 8	Morgan Eggleston, 8	Jack Gauger, 8
Arden Shesko, 7	Bethany Beavers, 7		

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of those four realities.

Consider just two of them: the past and the future. Any people or society not properly related to its history is vulnerable to the social pathology of revolution. By definition revolution is a rupture with the past, a repudiation of a particular heritage or way of life. This way of life is summed up with the word “tradition,” as when we refer to the Christian tradition, or to the Western tradition.

On the other hand, a society also maintains a relationship to the future. That is, we anticipate or expect the future to arrive in a particular way. Healthy cultures are socially optimistic and move into the future with expectation. An unhealthy society, however, is characterized by the social pathology of decadence, which is an apathetic disconcert for any good beyond individual desire. Decadent societies are particularly weak, and their moral atrophy renders them indifferent to investing meaningfully in the future. Decadent cultures as far back as the Roman Empire or French Republic have been characterized by practices that centered around anti-life: infanticide, reckless debt accumulation, and gender confusion. None of these are



properly oriented to the future, and all of them bend toward a culture of death.

What does this have to do with classical, Christian education? Everything. Look around. Our society is eerily similar to that of the late Roman Empire. It is sick with the dysfunctions of forgotten history, despised heritage, and an insatiable indulgence of individual desires. Children are ignorant of the achievements of Western culture, and are taught to apologize, repudiate and atone for all of its “sins.” Children are largely unconnected to their religious traditions, too, because parents either fail to make the effort to raise them in the Church, or because those churches are themselves significantly disconnected from the foundation of the prophets and apostles. Rampant proliferation of transgender identity among the young points further

to a cultural sterility unable or unwilling to create families that nurture the next generation.

The deepest pilings upon which our curriculum is erected is in response to this dysfunction. First, we are attentive to teaching not only the facts of history, but also its meaning, its movement, and the deep lessons we learn about ourselves from reading the story of those who lived before us. To be rightly related to our past means that we identify and understand the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of our forebears. A classical education spends time romping through ancient history and literature because students ought to know how our culture has been shaped by the ancient and medieval worlds.

Second, we are attentive to maintaining an historical expression of Christian faith. There are more than 60 churches represented at New Covenant, but the school’s “point of view” – charitably held – is that of the English Protestant Reformation, the Anglican tradition. The most visible features of this tradition are its emphases upon prayer, the Psalms, and the reading of copious amounts of Scripture. The doctrine of the Church, summarized in the Nicene

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FUNDRAISING REPORT			
	GOAL	RECEIVED	
Annual Fund	\$120,000		\$153,234
General Scholarship	\$10,000		\$130,008
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged Received	\$480,300 \$411,989
Hands and Hearts	\$50,000		\$30,667

Thank you for your gifts to New Covenant Schools. Donations continue to be accepted throughout the year and may be given 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 for more information.

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and Apostles' Creeds are memorized and carefully taught, not only in chapel, but at other points in the curriculum.

On both fronts we are battling the cultural forces that have had a corrosive effect. Needless to say, secular public education has long waged war precisely on the values we hold with highest importance, attacking them as worthless, time-bound, and most of all, prejudiced by white Northern Europeans. There are, however, more benign dangers undermining our efforts. The American commitment to technology as the holy grail of education is a "Trojan Horse" that gutted a broad, liberal education, with the promise of vocational success through ingenuity and cleverness, substituting technique for virtue. The end result will not be pretty, as David Hicks points out: "In its utilitarian haste, modern education

peddles preparation for the practical life to our young as the glittering door to the life of pleasure; but by encouraging this selfish approach to learning, the state sows a bitter fruit against that day when the community depends on its younger members to perform charitable acts and to consider arguments above self-interest."¹

We are clear-eyed about the pollution that threatens our culture. We are firmly convinced that a robust classical, Christian education positively commits to show students a higher way to live, rightly connected to the past, and optimistically moving forward in the future of their own generation.

¹ David V. Hicks, *Norms and Nobility: A Treatise on Education* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1999), 23.

QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 | CLASS OF 2027 — Dusty Miller, Court Shipman, Davidson Morse, Warden

EX OFFICIO

John Heaton—Headmaster

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

ETCETERA

EVERYONE

MOMS' NIGHT OUT

Join us for our annual Moms' Night Out on **Friday, April 25** from 5:30–10:00pm at DWELL (221 Wiggington Road).

Leslie Moeller, current board member and Head of School at Geneva School of Boerne in Texas, will share insights on the unique journey of being a mom in a classical school. Afterwards, there will be plenty of time to eat, relax, and fellowship. The event is free and open to all moms. Come and enjoy the evening with us! To sign up click the following link: bitly/moms_night2025.

HANDS & HEARTS

Thank you to those who have returned sponsorship packets to the office. Tickets will come home with the youngest student in each family on **April 14** and tickets will be collected at lunch on **April 15 & 16** with prize drawings to be held on **April 22**. If you have not returned your packet and would like to participate, please bring it to the office completed as soon as possible.

FOOD DRIVE

New Covenant will be collecting food and toiletry items for use at the Salvation Army during our Hands & Hearts event. 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, Froot Loops, etc.

- Small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion
- Small bars of soap
- Individual toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

Please bring your items to the collection site in the school's front lobby now through the morning of **Wednesday, April 23**. Everything donated will be taken to the Salvation Army and processed by our students during Hands & Hearts. It will be well used by those in our community.

LUNCH ORDERING

May lunch ordering is now open. It's the last time this school year, so don't delay! The deadline to order lunch is **Tuesday, April 22**. Featured items include pork BBQ sandwiches, hard-shell beef tacos, hot dogs, meatball subs, corndog nuggets, and pancakes. Please note that May includes several field trips, so be sure not to order lunch on days your student is away. Additionally, Kindergarteners and Seniors finish the year earlier than other students, so you may need to adjust your orders accordingly.

DROP-OFF AND PICKUP

As a reminder, New Covenant Schools is located in a residential area. Please be mindful of your speed when entering and exiting campus, as well as when driving through the surrounding neighborhood. Observing all posted speed limits ensures the safety of our students, staff, and neighbors.

GENTLE FOLK PODCAST

Today, New Covenant is pleased to announce the launch of its new podcast, *Gentle Folk*. You will receive a text with a link to listen, and it is also available on our school website. For more details, please refer to today's *What's New* (pg. 1).

EVENSONG

All Saints is hosting Evensong (sung Evening Prayer) every Wednesday in Lent beginning at 6:30pm in the Marie Macdonald Chapel. Each service will be followed by a soup and salad supper in the Grammar School Commons. **Lukas Stock, John Heaton, and Davidson Morse** give in turn a Lenten meditation after the supper. All are invited!

EASTER BREAK

Maundy Thursday is **April 17** and students will have a **noon dismissal** that day. Easter Break will begin on **Friday, April 18** and continue through **Monday, April 21**. Students will return to school on Tuesday, April 22.

THANK YOU

New Covenant has raised \$587.76 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, and New Covenant Schools to link your community rewards. Our organization code is IX901.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FIELD DAY

Our annual Field Day will be on **Friday, May 23**. This event is for our Grammar School students in grades 1-4. If your student in grades 1-4 will **NOT** be attending, please email **Amanda Gunn** at amandaLgunn@gmail.com. Knowing who will or will not be here helps when forming 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: bit.ly/Field_Day2025.



GET READY TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK, APRIL 6-12, 2025!

"First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support." (www.ala.org)

This year, our Grammar School students will be invited to create a window display featuring all the reasons why they love our library. We will have a fun interactive "Which Book?" matching game for Middle

School students, and School of Rhetoric students will participate in Poem in Your Pocket Day, later this month. As a treat we have invited special guests **Mr. Heaton, Mrs. Patterson**, and a handful of seniors to read their favorite childhood picture books to our Grammar School students. There will be fun giveaways and prize drawings including gift certificates to Givens & Little Dickens bookstore.

We look forward to an exciting week!

Did you know you can support our library by participating in the Rebate Program at Givens & Little Dickens? Simply tell the clerk at check-out that your child attends New Covenant Schools, and they will record the sale. At the end of the year, we receive a gift certificate for 3% of all sales.

2025 SUMMER CAMPS

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL CAMP

*Rising 2nd-5th Grade Girls |
June 9-June 13*

The American Girl Doll Camp will run for one week, Monday, June 9 – Friday, June 13 from 9am-12:30 pm. The cost is \$250 and **the deadline to sign up is May 16**. After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account by May 30. This camp is limited to 12 girls and you will receive an email confirming a spot after registering.

bit.ly/AG_Camp2025

DRAMA CAMP 1: SHAKESPEARE'S MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

*Rising 7th-12th Graders |
June 2-June 6
(Play performance will be held on the afternoon of June 6.)*

This action-filled camp will teach students characterization, understanding of Shakespeare's language, and confidence as they bring classic characters to life. It runs Monday, June 2 – Friday, June 6 from 9am-3pm. The cost is \$275 and **the deadline to sign up is May 16**. After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account by May 30. The camp is limited to 20 students.

bit.ly/DramaCamp1_2025

DRAMA CAMP 2: TREASURE ISLAND

*Rising 3rd-6th Graders |
June 23-June 27
(Play performance will be held the afternoon of June 27.)*

Students will join Jim, Long John Silver, and the rest of his scurvy crew for this classic pirate adventure. It runs Monday, June 23 – Friday, June 27 from 9am-1pm. The cost is \$250 and **the deadline to sign up is May 16**. After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account by May 30. The camp is limited to 20 students.

bit.ly/DramaCamp2_2025

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 16 –26, Monday through Thursday each week with no camp on Fridays. The second session will be held July 7-17, Monday through Thursday each week with no camp on Fridays. The cost is \$175 for a two-week session for the first child in a family and \$50 for each additional sibling. The cost is \$300 for a four-week session for the first child in a family and \$75 for each additional sibling. **The deadline to sign up is May 16**. After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account by May 30.

bit.ly/Stayfit_2025

M I D D L E S C H O O L D R A M A

*Tickets
go on sale
April 14*

Around the World in 80 Days

MAY 9TH – 7:00pm
MAY 10TH – 2:00pm
MAY 10TH – 7:00pm



Home

2024-25 Drama Season | New Covenant Schools