



New Covenant students serving around Lynchburg for Hands & Hearts service projects on April 23.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

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EXACT IMAGINING

by Kathryn Martin, Middle School Principal

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Last summer I traveled to Poland and while there, I visited the concentration and death camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau. A student has asked me why I would want to go to such places, and I told her I believe that learning about the sufferings of people of the past honors their suffering and the memory of their lives. And, as with the study of history in general, I think such experiences make us more fully human, if not humane.

At New Covenant, we recognize the value of learning about the past to see the present, ourselves, and the world more clearly. One of the ways we do this is through what the Oxford historian George Steiner has called "exact imagining." The historian

and writer Joy Hakim, author of several of our schools' history texts that have been publicly praised by the late historian David McCullough, encourages young historians to practice exact imagining as they learn about the events of the past. She says that for us to understand ideas, people, and events of the past well, we must of course read about them, but we must also imagine ourselves into their times. We must put together the facts we've learned with the exercise of our imagination. Field trips to places of historical significance provide students with opportunities to do this.

While visiting Auschwitz and Birkenau, I practiced some exact imagining myself. In its time it was the largest extermination camp in existence.

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WHAT'S NEW?

Math/Latin Faculty Position Open

New Covenant's Middle School for Dialectic is seeking applications for a full faculty position in teaching upper Middle School math and Latin (grades 7/8) for the 2025-26 school year and beyond. A successful candidate must hold at least the BA or equivalent in a math or language field and must have teaching experience. For more information about the position and teaching at New Covenant please contact **Kathryn Martin** at kmartin@newcovenantschools.org. Compensation is competitive and a benefits package is offered. If you would like to submit an application, please use the Faculty Application link below.

www.newcovenantschools.org/contact/faculty-application/

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

HACKENBRACHT RECEIVES DOLAN CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Corey Hackenbracht is the 2025 recipient of the **Ronald V. Dolan Citizenship Award | Bank of the James**. The Bank of the James recognizes one senior from each area high school who possesses the qualities of integrity, trustworthiness, and loyalty and whose community service and citizenship qualities are exemplary. Corey is awarded \$500 as the New Covenant Schools nominee for this award.



SPORTS AWARDS & NEWS



- Our **Women's Golf** team won the **BRAC Conference Championship** on April 30.
- Our **Coed Golf** team placed **4th in the BRAC Conference Championship** on May 5. **Rusty Hooks** won the individual championship and **Ian Walker** earned 1st Team All-Conference.
- The **Women's Track & Field** team placed **4th in the BRAC Conference Championship** on May 10. **Alicia Kenny, Emme Sue Foster, and Elle Rose** earned 1st Team All-Conference honors.
- **Varsity Women's Soccer** will host a **State Quarterfinal game on Tuesday at 5:00pm** (\$5 charge mandated by VISAA). If they win, they will host the State Semifinal game on Thursday.
- **Varsity Men's Tennis** qualified for the first time ever and will play on Tuesday, May 13 in the Quarterfinals.
- **Coed and Women's Golf** are in **Williamsburg** for their **State Championships** today and tomorrow.
- **Track & Field** will compete in the **VISAA State Championships** in **Richmond** on Friday.



2025 SUMMER CAMPS

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. This camp 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

STRINGS CAMP

*Rising 5th–12th Graders |
July 21–July 25*

The strings camp will help students of all skill levels develop their ability in a small-group setting. The camp will run for one week, Monday, July 21– Friday, July 25. Monday through Thursday 9am–12pm and Friday 9am–1pm. The cost is \$200 and **the deadline to sign up is May 22**. Limited scholarships are available for those with documentable financial need. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

bit.ly/Strings_Camp2025



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

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

PREPAY LUNCH ACCOUNTS

As the end of the year approaches, please make sure your prepay lunch account is paid off and funds are added to cover anticipated purchases through the end of school year. **Students with negative balances will not be able to make purchases as the year finishes.** Any unused funds will roll over for returning students or be refunded to graduating/withdrawing students with no outstanding balances.

LOST AND FOUND

Don't forget to check the Lost and Found bins for any missing items. At the end of the year, all unclaimed items will be donated.

YEARBOOKS

Students in K-8th grade will receive their yearbooks on their last day of school. Homeroom teachers will distribute them according to class/homeroom.

SUMMER MUSIC LESSONS & CAMPS

Allegro Music School will be offering summer lessons and camps this year. New this summer! Art lessons with Mr. Dunaway: To learn more and reserve your spots, text 434-841-7374, or visit <https://www.allegromusic.school/summer>.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

PANACHE AUDITIONS

Auditions for the SOR winter play, *Cinderella*, will be held in the band room from 3:30-4:30pm on **Wednesday, May 14**. This audition will be for rising 9th-through-12th grade students.

SPRING DANCE

The Spring Dance will be held outside at New Covenant in front of the Workman Fieldhouse on **Thursday, May 22** from 7:00-10:00pm. See email sent by Dr. Uminn on April 24.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC CONCERT

Our School of Rhetoric students in strings, band, and choir will be performing in a Spring Concert on **Tuesday, May 20** at 7:00pm in the Moomaw Center. All are invited to come enjoy their performances. (Uniform guides are available to view under Resources in FACTS.)

ATHLETIC AWARDS

The spring athletic awards ceremony will be held on **Wednesday, May 14** at 12:40pm in the Workman Field House. Families are welcome to attend.

PASSING OF THE TORCH

The *Passing of the Torch* ceremony will take place on **Thursday, May 15** at 8:15am in the Moomaw Center.

SOR REMINDERS

Underclassmen's last day of school will be **Thursday, May 22**. There will be a picnic lunch provided followed by locker clean-out and End-of-Year Awards.

SENIOR NOTES

The last day of school for seniors is **Thursday, May 15**. Seniors will attend a brunch in their honor immediately following the *Passing of the Torch* ceremony. Graduation rehearsal is at Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church at 1:00pm. Seniors should plan on returning to campus on **Thursday, May 22** at 12:00pm to join the rest of the SOR for a picnic lunch at Pat's Pavilion, followed by book return, locker clean-out and End-of-Year Awards.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

EIGHTH GRADE AWARDS

The 8th grade awards ceremony will be held on **Friday, May 23** from 10:30-11:30am in the Moomaw Center. Parents are invited to attend.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MOVE-UP MEETING

Fourth-grade parents with an oldest or only child rising to Middle School next year are invited to a "moving up" meeting

with the Middle School principal, **Kathryn Martin**, today in the chapel beginning at 2:30-3:15pm where we will discuss what to expect in the coming year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTY

All Middle School students are invited to attend the annual End-of-the-Year Party. The event runs from 5:00-7:00pm on **Friday, May 16**. Students should wear comfortable athletic clothes and tennis shoes for the games, and there will be an ice cream bar and popcorn for snacks! This event is free of charge. We hope to see all 5th-through-8th graders there!

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT

Our Middle School students in strings, band and choir will be performing in a Spring Concert on **Monday, May 19** at 7:00pm in the Moomaw Center. Students should arrive in concert dress. (Uniform guides are available to view under Resources in FACTS.) All are invited to come enjoy their performances.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

Kindergarten graduation will be held on **Thursday, May 22** from 10:00-11:00am in the Moomaw Center. Kindergarten students are dismissed after the program and do not attend school on Friday.

PRE-K PARENT PROGRAM

The Pre-K class will present an end-of-year program for parents on **Thursday, May 22** at 9:15am in the Marie Macdonald Chapel. Pre-K students are dismissed after the program and do not attend school on Friday.

GS CONCERT

The Grammar School, grades 1st-4th, will perform their end-of-year recital on **Friday, May 23** at 8:15am in the Moomaw Center followed by **Field Day** at 10:00am, with a 12:00pm dismissal.

Between 1940 and 1945, 1.1 million people were murdered there. It was the Nazis’ largest death factory, and men, women, and children were deported to its gate from all over Europe. There is hardly any place more awful than Auschwitz. I’d read enough to know that. And yet physically being there made what happened there over 80 years ago present and real to me in ways that are difficult to describe. Still, as I and my fellow pilgrims arrived and proceeded through the entrance tunnel, we heard the names of prisoners who had died there read aloud, one by one. I imagined how terrible it would be to hear the names of my loved ones read over the same loudspeaker.

As we entered the front gate under the ironically evil words “Arbeit macht frei” (Work sets you free!) and walked over the same pathways where prisoners were forced to endure hours-long roll calls in rain, snow, and blistering heat, I was put in remembrance of something I had never experienced myself. As we toured the 370-acre camp, the barracks, the ash pond, the crematorium, and the rooms filled with personal belongings, which had been stolen from the prisoners, I imagined myself—as much as I could—into the time in which those events occurred. There were many stops along the way where silent reverence was the only reasonable response to the overwhelming degree of suffering endured by the victims of Auschwitz. I was, and still am, shocked that such evil could exist in this world.

At the conclusion of our tour, the guide told us that the Nazis had hoped, and certainly did their best, to erase even the *memory* of the Jews from human history—but, in the end, what they did to the Jews had the opposite effect. Now, over 2 million people from all over the world visit Auschwitz and Birkenau each year to remember them.

Those who visit those grounds, and other memorials like them, carry with them a residue of the suffering, but also the hope that evil cannot and will not win in the end. Auschwitz survivor Halina Birenbaum said, “Even if evil triumphs at times, goodness does not cease to exist.” There have been many times in history when evil triumphed, at least for a time. But as those who study history know, evil can eventually turn in on itself and come to nothing. During this long pilgrimage, I was reminded of what has happened in ages past when people forgot their history and as a result forgot their humanity.

Summer is almost here. As you look forward to Memorial Day and the rest of your summer plans, I hope you will get to do some exact imagining together with your children as I did on my trip last summer. But you needn’t travel to Europe to do so. This year not only marks the 80th anniversary of the ending of World War II, but also the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Consider going as a family to one of the many historical sites that are part of our rich heritage in Virginia and all along the east coast. These small acts of remembrance, done as a family, can do much to spark children’s interest in history and help them see that it is about more than getting a good grade in history class. Over time, they too can come to see that we learn history so that we will never forget what it means to be both human and humane. You may end up inspiring the youngest historians in your home through such family field trips with a few of their own small acts of exact imagining.

FUNDRAISING REPORT			
	GOAL	RECEIVED	
Annual Fund	\$120,000		\$155,399
General Scholarship	\$10,000		\$130,008
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i>	\$486,675
		<i>Received</i>	\$465,164
Hands and Hearts	\$50,000		\$53,834

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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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EX OFFICIO
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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