



The Passing of the Torch Ceremony brought together Seniors, Juniors, and the Kindergarten classes last week.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

MAY 19, 2025  
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## THE HEART OF COMMUNITY: CELEBRATING PARENT VOLUNTEERS

by John Heaton, Headmaster

With a short trip to Kroger or Walmart, you can learn a lot. I'll make just one observation. At any given hour of the day, you can pull into a parking lot full of cars that more or less look like yours, grab a basket and walk up and down aisles with people who, more or less look like you. (Okay, in many cases, no.) Everyone, however, is at the store at the same time for the same reason, doing the same thing. It's interesting that we could have so much in common with others, but no idea of the name of the person who we just passed in the produce section. It suggests that being occupied with identical pursuits

in a given public place does not make us into a community.

How different it is when you step onto the campus of, say, a school—particularly a school like New Covenant. A few weeks ago New Covenant hosted a team for accreditation, and one repetitive remark was that “the entire community—students, faculty, leadership, and families—exhibits a rare unity of purpose,” and that “parents are raving fans of the school’s community and culture.” This is what a community is, a gathering of people who strive for the highest common purposes together.

*continued on p.4*

### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Save the Dates—Used Uniform Sales

Mark your calendars now to visit one of the two used uniform sales throughout the summer. The first sale will be **Thursday, June 26** from 4:00-6:00pm. You may come to shop, sell, or both! There will be tables set up in the Moomaw Center for you to bring any of your gently used uniform items to sell. You will

be responsible to handle the transactions and provide your own cash box.

Gryphon Outfitters, our school store, will be open that day as well and the sample uniforms will be available to try on for sizing. Any used items we have will be set out in the upper school wing, selling for \$1 each. This is a

great time to shop since the school store does not hold regular hours during the summer. The second and final uniform sale of the summer will be **Tuesday, July 22** from 4:00-6:00pm.

Updated uniform guides are available under the resource section of FACTS or on the NCS App for your reference.

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

# H O N O R A R I A

## SPRING ATHLETIC AWARDS 2025

### VARSITY TRACK

MVP  
**Judah Weber**  
MVP  
**Alicia Kenny**  
Gryphon Award  
**Melia Leitner**  
Most Improved  
**Andre Frenchik**

### VARSITY GOLF

MVP  
**Rusty Hooks**

MVP  
**Charlotte Libbey**  
Gryphon Award  
**Ian Walker**  
Most Improved  
**Colton Buckner**

### VARSITY SOCCER

MVP  
**Ellie Bonebright**  
Gryphon Award  
**Ryleigh Taylor**  
Most Improved  
**Whitney Bailey**

### VARSITY LACROSSE

MVP  
**Corey Hackenbracht**  
Gryphon Award  
**James Brophy**

Most Improved  
**Wyatt Renalds**

### VARSITY TENNIS

MVP  
**Bryce Hampton**  
Gryphon Award  
**Nicholas Richmond**  
Most Improved  
**Joel Ng**

### ALL-CONFERENCE

**Ellie Jacobs**  
1st Team – Soccer  
**Emma Fritz**  
2nd Team – Soccer  
**Jocelyn Walker**  
2nd Team – Soccer  
**Bryce Hampton**  
1st Team – Tennis

**Britton Basten**  
2nd Team – Tennis

**Rusty Hooks**  
1st Team – Golf  
**Ian Walker**  
1st Team – Golf

### ALL-STATE

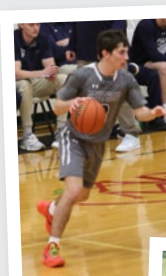
**Alicia Kenny** – Track  
**Charlotte Libbey** – Golf  
**Rusty Hooks** – Golf

### IRON GRYPHONS

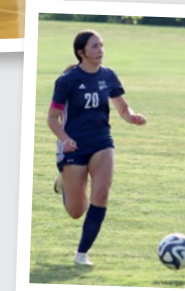
**Lucas Gorman**  
**Ellie Jacobs**  
**Melia Leitner**  
**Noah McCormick**



## ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



Lucas  
Gorman



Jocelyn  
Walker

## ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS & STATS, 2024-2025

By John Heaton and John Maynard

As we go to press today, our Lady Gryphons' Varsity Soccer team is preparing for this afternoon's Virginia Independent School Athletic Association Championship (VISAA) in Harrisonburg. It's a trip they've been hoping to make all season. For the third year in a row, our women's team has fought its way to the State Championship game, following last Friday's thrilling semifinal at home, defeating a worthy opponent – Chelsea Catholic—in the last 30 seconds of the game. Every player had more than one great moment, but it was **Ellie Jacobs** who scored two goals, and **Hannah Edwards** who hit an open shot in front of the goal before time expired. The #2 seed Gryphons face off against #1 seed Eastern Mennonite today.

Each year we like to catalogue the accomplishments of our student athletes, with 94% of students in grades 5-12

playing at least one season of co-curricular athletics. Here are the highlights:

- NCS Athletics has played/participated in 302 athletic contests to date.
- In head-to-head contests, all teams are 156-127 for the year.
- The SOR is 93-70 in head-to-head matchups, a 57% win percentage.
- Student athletes spent 305 hours on bus rides this school year, and about 1,110 hours in practice.
- All teams combined spent 500 hours in active competition, for a total of almost 2,000 hours devoted to athletics this year.

Team highlights include:

- 10 teams qualified for their VISAA State Playoffs, with 3 Final Four appearances (Men's Soccer, Women's Basketball, Women's Soccer), and 1 State Championship appearance.
- Women's Golf won the BRAC Conference Championship.
- Women's Volleyball made the Conference Championship for the 4th year in a row.

Individual highlights include:

- 24 1st or 2nd Team All-Conference Athletes.
- To date, 11 1st or 2nd Team All-State Athletes.
- Conference Champion golfers in **Rusty Hooks** and **Charlotte Libbey**.
- Members of the swim team and track team set 7 new school records.

Seniors finishing their careers include:

- All-Time Soccer Goals Leader – **Ellie Jacobs**
- All-Time Volleyball Assists Leader – **Jocelyn Walker**
- 500-Point Basketball Members – **Lucas Gorman** and **Jocelyn Walker**
- 3rd Leading Soccer Goal Scorer – **Lucas Gorman**
- To date, 4 of these Seniors leave with 1st Team All-State honors in their career: **James Brophy**, **Emma Fritz**, **Lucas Gorman**, and **Ellie Jacobs**.

Congratulations to all our student athletes!

# 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.

### SCHOOL STORE

The school store will be closed this **Thursday, May 22**, but save the dates for the Used Uniform and school Store Sales on **June 26** and **July 22**.

### 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

### 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 **tomorrow, May 20** at **7:00pm** in the Moomaw Center. All are invited to come enjoy their performances.

### 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.

## 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.

### MS CONCERT

Our Middle School students in strings, band, and choir will be performing in a Spring Concert **tonight, May 19** at

**7:00pm** in the Moomaw Center. All are invited to come enjoy their performances. (See email from **Eliza Olson** regarding uniform dress.)

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### FIELD DAY PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Our annual Field Day will be on **Friday, May 23** with a **noon dismissal**. At the end of the day, students will return to the classrooms at which time parent volunteers may pick up their students by signing them out with the student's teacher from the classrooms or join the pick-up line.

### 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**.



Such a report gladdens us, of course, but the overflow from your enthusiasm is felt directly through high levels of volunteer participation. We enjoy a remarkable group of parents who give generously of their time, talent, and presence in the daily rhythms of the school. Of course, not every parent has discretionary time to offer during school or events, but many of you can, and do, in abundance.

As the school year draws to a close, we thank the dozens of moms and dads who have enlisted in our volunteer ranks and invested time and talent for the highest purposes of our school, the rearing of our children. Your presence alongside our teachers provides a forum for students to see their parents in step with the broader community. We thank those who chaired committees, or led others in projects. Whether you were on campus daily, weekly, or merely as an occasional driver for a field trip, your contribution has been felt and is greatly appreciated. Your presence—quiet and consistent, bold and behind-the-scenes—makes our efforts more than a shopping trip. It makes New Covenant Schools the genuine community that it is.

HANDS EVENT CHAIRS

- *Generations Day*: Dolly Seckman
- *Faculty Meeting Snacks*: Noelle King
- *Field Day*: Lesley Kesler, Amanda Gunn, Jennifer Griffin and Amanda Novack
- *Lobby Showcases*: Sarah Wittcop
- *Deck the Halls*: Eliza Olson
- *Moms in Prayer*: Naomi Hostetler
- *HANDS*: Stacey Basten
- *Teacher Luncheons*: Kait Walker, Megan Kolegue, Ashley Schaap

OTHER HANDS VOLUNTEERS

- Those who provided food for A Latte Poetry, Generations Day, class parties, and other events
- Room moms, recess helpers, weekly readers, poetry recital listeners, and Arts & Science Fair volunteers
- Drivers and chaperones for field trips and Hands & Hearts
- Coaches

LUNCH ROOM VOLUNTEERS

- PIZZA  
Sarah Gauger, Julie Hart, Chapel Kershaw, Merideth Maslow, Adrienne Scruggs, Minhwa Morse, Janice Carver, Amy Bonebright, Wendy Farmer,

Lara Haupricht, Ryan Jay, Kristen Sharrett, Mike Sharrett, Rachel Vollmer

- ICE CREAM  
Chew Fui Chong, Lesley Kesler, Amanda Gunn, Tricia Christian, Rebekah Hoskins, Ashley Schaap, Kathryn Williams

- MICROWAVE  
Allison Misiano, Dolly Seckman, Sarah Wittcop, Melanie Jay, Rachel Liu, Jessica Arrington, Megan Kolegue, Kristen Moore, Brooke Patterson, Aaron Patterson, Ashley Keese, Courtney Tucker

AMBASSADORS

Kirsten and Ben Hinson, Ellen and Chris Steed, Courtney and Brett Tucker, Sarah Gauger, Julie and Jon Hart, Brandi and Dan Marchant, Jessica and Tim Lee, Adam Miller, Dolly and Leland Seckman, Lorene Robinson, Dawn Henson, Samantha and Matthew Turner, Sarah and Adam Wittcop, Rachel and Dan Vollmer

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

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



# 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 22**. 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](https://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 22**. 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](https://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 22**. 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](https://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](https://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 22**. After completing the registration, you will receive an invoice through your FACTS account by May 30.

[bit.ly/Stayfit\\_2025](https://bit.ly/Stayfit_2025)