



Third-grade students recently working in the Gryphon Garden with Mrs. Simpkins.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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EDUCATION: THE ARCHITECTURE OF A WHOLE PERSON

by Erin H. Uminn, Principal of the School of Rhetoric

The first time I toured the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. it took my breath away. Guests make their way through security, turn down attractive corridors, and finally spill into the large, open lower level. The eye is immediately drawn upward to the soaring, hand-painted ceiling and Corinthian columns that line the exposed second level. Italian and Tennessee marble form a checkerboard floor with brass inlay in a space built to rival the most spectacular structures of Europe. There are ornate carvings, grand staircases, relief

portrait plaques of founding lawmakers, and an original Gutenberg Latin Vulgate at the entrance of the reading room, with its vast geometric dome. The message is unique—Biblical text, expansive aesthetics, the great ideas, and the building of a people is on impressive display.

Inscriptions are etched over doorways, including “What doth the LORD require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” The interior is a striking reference to the living roots from which the nation sprung, incorporating

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WHAT'S NEW?

Guidance Update



Our guidance office has been busy this year helping students navigate the next steps after New Covenant. Seniors have been working with Guidance Counselor **Lauren Helm** on college applications, learning how to discriminate between college choices, and how to understand the scholarship and financial aid process. In the last two weeks, college admissions counselors have been visiting our campus. Counselors from Liberty University, Roanoke College, High Point University, Hampden-Sydney University, Virginia Tech, William & Mary, University of Virginia and Wake Forest University met with interested students. Next week the University of Lynchburg will be on campus with more colleges scheduled to visit throughout October. More information about our guidance office and next level placements can be found here on our website:

<https://www.newcovenantschools.org/academics/school-of-rhetoric-9-12/>

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A



ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY

IT'S TIME TO ORDER
YEARBOOKS FOR 2025-26

Our yearbook price will increase slightly for the first time in years as printing costs have been rising. The first yearbook will be \$50, but additional yearbooks will remain at only \$35. **Our experience proves that the majority of parents appreciate when we automatically order one yearbook per family.**

However, you may opt out of ordering a yearbook. Please email **April Andrade** at aandrade@newcovenantschools.org if you

DO NOT want to receive a yearbook this year.

If we do not hear from you before

October 20, your FACTS account will be charged \$50 for your family yearbook.

If you want additional yearbooks, we will do the ordering for you through the end of October. Please check your email for a Signup Genius where you can request to purchase additional yearbooks. After **October 31st**, additional books will be \$55 and must be ordered directly from Varsity Yearbook (formerly Herff Jones).

TAN AND SMITH NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Enoch Tan was named a **National Merit Scholar Semifinalist!** National Merit Semifinalists represent less than one percent of US high school seniors. The semifinalists in Virginia scored highest in the state on the PSAT their junior year. He is one of 16,000 US high

school students and one of only two in our area who qualify for National Merit Scholarships announced in the spring.

Ashe Smith is one of just 34,000 **National Merit Scholar Commended Students** recognized for her exceptional score

on the PSAT. She placed in the top four percent nationally, and these high-achieving Commended Students are recognized for demonstrating outstanding potential for academic success. Congratulations, Enoch and Ashe!

STEWARDSHIP YOUR FINANCES

The terms of usage for anyone with a Virginia 529 educational savings account have been expanded. Join us to learn about the changes as well as the VA Educational Improvement Tax Credits Scholarship Program and other tax strategies at an informational meeting on **September 24** (or any Wednesday during October) at **7:45am**. The meeting will last about 30 minutes. Sign up here to reserve your spot: <http://bit.ly/4p4aVs8>.



SPORTS RESULTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

5/6 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	1
Timberlake Christian	2

5/6 BOYS' SOCCER

New Covenant.....	1
James River Day	5

7/8 BOYS' SOCCER

New Covenant.....	3
at James River Day	2

7/8 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

North Cross	0
New Covenant.....	2

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Onward Christian.....	0
New Covenant.....	2

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

Eastern Mennonite.....	0
New Covenant.....	1

7/8 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Lynchburg Homeschool	2
New Covenant.....	1

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Lynchburg Homeschool.....	1
New Covenant.....	2

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Lynchburg Homeschool	1
New Covenant.....	3

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

5/6 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Lynchburg Homeschool.....	0
New Covenant.....	2

7/8 BOYS' SOCCER

Timberlake Christian	2
New Covenant.....	1

VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

Timberlake Christian	0
New Covenant.....	7

VARSITY WOMEN'S TENNIS

New Covenant.....	0
North Cross.....	9

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

New Covenant.....	1
Blue Ridge School.....	2

7/8 BOYS' SOCCER

Covenant School.....	0
New Covenant.....	1

5/6 BOYS' SOCCER

Lynchburg Homeschool.....	4
New Covenant.....	2

7/8 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Carlisle School.....	0
New Covenant.....	2

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Carlisle School.....	0
New Covenant.....	2

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Carlisle School.....	0
New Covenant.....	3

ETCETERA

EVERYONE

LUNCH ORDERING

Second quarter lunch ordering is open now through **Monday, September 29** and will cover lunch dates from **October 14 to December 17**. If you order milk and other lunch options by quarter, prices are heavily discounted. Please remember that quarterly orders only appear on the lunch calendar the first week of the quarter but apply to the entire quarter. Please log in to your FACTS app or desktop account to place your orders. Pizza does not have to be preordered unless you require a gluten-free or dairy-free pizza. Questions? Refer to the Lunch Times that was sent home last week, or contact **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Parents of students in K-8th grade are invited to bring household pets for a blessing on **Friday, October 3**. Time TBA.

PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN 2026-27

Now is the time to submit a new student application if you intend for your child to begin Pre-K or Kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year. We offer early enrollment to our current families. Sibling applications for all other grades are also being accepted. **Please note, if your child is currently enrolled in our Pre-K program you do not need to re-apply.**

Your application for a new sibling will receive priority in our admissions process until **Friday, October 17**, but we encourage you to apply today! Application is easy. Simply log into your FACTS Family Portal on a desktop and select *Apply/Enroll* on the left side menu then choose *Application*.

School tours are also open. If you would like to learn more about our Pre-K-12 program or know another family who is interested in our school, please use this link to schedule a tour <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/schedule-a-tour/> or contact **Eliza Olson** in the admissions office by emailing eolson@newcovenantschools.org.

CONCESSIONS MANAGER NEEDED

Shifts would be 3-5 hours at a time depending on the number of games, and managers would be helped by parent volunteers. Parents or high school students interested in managing concession during the winter season can apply by emailing **Andrea Adams** at aadams@newcovenantschools.org.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

HJ Photo will be on campus **Tuesday, September 30** to take individual and classroom photos. **Please make every effort to have your student on time and do not plan any appointments on this day, if possible.** All photo ordering will be done online, and nothing is needed from you in advance. Senior class, individual, formal and casual portraits will also be taken on this day, so please make sure to have a casual outfit in accordance with dress code guidelines, Tuesday's school uniform, and your cap and gown.

MUSIC LESSONS

Allegro Music is now offering on-site lessons for saxophone and clarinet! Please visit www.allegromusic.school or text (610) 350-1780 for info.

MEN'S RETREAT

This year's Men's Retreat will be held on **November 14-15**. Watch for more details to come.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

DC TRIP

The School of Rhetoric will be taking its annual trip to Washington DC on **Thursday, October 2 - Friday, October 3**. More details to follow.

SOR PANACHE CINDERELLA MEETING

A mandatory parent meeting will take place on **Friday, September 26** from 3:15-4:00pm in the library to discuss expectations of the cast and to prepare for the beginning of rehearsals.

SOR PARENT COFFEE

The Guidance Office will host an SOR Parent Coffee to discuss *Preparing Practically with Perspective* on **Tuesday, September 23 at 8:00am** in the Library (L1). Please come for a 30-minute introduction to our college preparation timeline, including testing, trends, and resources, followed by time for your questions.

GRYPHON GROWLER 3K WINNERS



WOMEN'S 18 & UNDER

Winner - Elise Williams (13:49)

WOMEN'S 18 & OVER

Winner - Alison Misiano (16:00)

MEN'S 18 & UNDER

Winner - John-Paul Gauger (12:29)

MEN'S 18 & OVER

Winner - Kevin Bailey (14:34)



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famous ancient, medieval, and modern philosophers, statesmen, and theologians. One such quote is, “The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.” The Library contains tens of thousands of original documents and manuscripts. This is interactive education at its finest. In two weeks, our SOR students will take in the sights and sounds of D.C., and our 9th grade students will experience this impressive space.

Aristotle, the pagan philosopher who lived a few hundred years before Christ, opened his *Treatise on Government* by stating, “Every society is established for some good purpose—for an apparent good is the spring of all human actions—it is evident that this is the principle upon which they are every one founded.” It is this phrase—an apparent good—a life source for human action, that has me reflecting on the magnificence of the Library of Congress and its invitation to build. In the opening paragraphs of his treatise, Aristotle interestingly claims that society begins through the establishment of family through marriage. He did not start by expounding on the functions or laws of a state government. He began with the union of father, mother, and children. To form a society without that foundation, he claims, is to build upon sand.

From that comes the second association, which Aristotle terms “the village,” an “offshoot of the family.” Families associate and come from the same place or source—those who have grown together in the same region, language, and work. The final association is the collection of villages. This association, he claims, is the “height of full self-sufficiency” and that it “exists for the sake of the good life.”

It is here that we may reflect on the importance of formation, described in such documents as Jefferson’s Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which states, “Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be forever encouraged.” If we go back even further to the Biblical account, the instruction to the Hebrews to love the Lord God is reestablished by Christ over a millennium later as the apparent good. The seismic shift of Christ’s ministry on the history of the world is found on every surface of the Library of Congress.

The faculty of New Covenant Schools is in the business of instructing souls, a village of second association after the family. There are basic competencies to expand the heart and mind of humans—reading, writing, and logic to unlock and to connect rather than isolate. It is to help students move outside of the dehumanizing idea that their only value is to adopt a function, earn money, and consume. Instead, we aim to combine the development of virtue through love and good works while steadfastly habituating to the discipline of lifelong learning. Humans become a reflection of how they have been built, just as the Library of Congress bears witness to the ideals that constructed it.

This is why we ask our students to wrestle with Milton and Dante, Homer and Virgil. It is why we ask them to slow down to write and speak. It is why we hold morning prayer and make space for generosity and service. It is why we put beautiful architecture, artwork, and words before them. They are image bearers of God, and an education rightly teaches them this fact. I would argue that

we must do three things as the masons of our families, however small they start: Attend church, read and discuss essential questions and Great Books together, and model virtue. Here is how—find ways to set parameters and establish face-to-face interactions and participation around the family table, the neighborhood, the school, and church.

What is built into our hearts and minds is always displayed outwardly in our words and our deeds for the good or detriment of all, and this is especially true of Christians. When we ask students to consider, reflect, and take time, we do so to the betterment of their souls. We cannot make haste when instructing a child. The building of the Library in D.C. spanned more than seven years, but the collection of its contents took centuries. How much greater is the building of our children?



QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Nancy Hall, Chris Misiano, Sam Mizener,
Tom Rogers, Anne Umbarger
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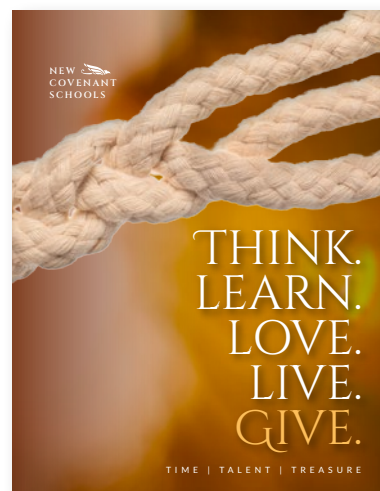
OUR MISSION

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

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE. GIVE.

A new publication from the school is coming home with today's QUID NOVI to most of you (SOR excepted). We call it our "Generosity Book," and in it we've tried to pull together into one place the many ways that we may invest our lives in one another. To the degree that we can, we invest our time, our talents, and our treasure to strengthen the community we share at New Covenant. I hope you'll read it carefully.



One aspect of generosity is, of course, expressed in our Annual Fund, which is our yearly effort to raise money for the things that tuition does not cover. Last year, for example, your generosity purchased a new bus and a new acoustic shell for musical performances. This year we are putting some finishing touches on our game fields outside the Workman Field House. We'll be installing a significant amount of fencing, reorienting the practice field and adjusting its irrigation, and installing shrubbery with low brick seating walls. Taken together, not only will it look good, but it will keep the soccer and lacrosse balls on the right field during play!

That's not all. With significant gifts from three benefactors, we have also been able to purchase a new Gator for the athletic department, add to the Workman-Hall Fitness center equipment inventory, and maintain a timing system for cross country meets held on campus. For our many on-campus gatherings such as sports concessions and picnics, we acquired a new BBQ grill cooker which has the capacity to keep up with demand by heavier crowds. Because it's a trailer package, it can be moved offsite to serve MS Farm Day and Men's Retreats. Inside the building, we have been able to replace the ice machine in the kitchen, an improvement which was long overdue. The band room has also been outfitted with a new television and projector for class instruction.

We currently have \$180,000 in hand to begin installation of our field fencing and netting, and the remaining amount will be provided by your generous gifts to the Annual Fund. Our goal is to raise \$300,000. Thank you for considering how you might join our effort this year.





ANNUAL FUND 2025-26

Fundraising goal:
\$300,000



FUNDRAISING REPORT			
	GOAL	RECEIVED	
Annual Fund	\$300,000	\$180,000	
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$2,535	
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i>	\$154,000
		<i>Received</i>	\$137,675

Please consider New Covenant Schools in your giving. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent that the law provides. Donations may be given through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.