



The annual Blessing of the Animals on Friday drew special pets of every kind and filled the campus with joy.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

OCTOBER 6, 2025
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SHAPING THE CULTURE AND FUTURE OF NEW COVENANT

by Eliza Olson, Director of Admissions

When I first began my work as Director of Parent Relations, I had the privilege of walking alongside families as they navigated their first days in our school. My role was to help parents feel connected, supported, and informed. Sometimes that meant answering practical questions, introducing them to fellow new families, or simply lending a listening ear as they adjusted to a new school. Those early interactions were rewarding, and they also gave me insight into what matters most to families as they choose a school for their children.

Now, as I transition into the role of Director of

Admissions, I carry that experience with me. I am still serving families, but now at the very beginning of their journey, often before they've even stepped foot on campus. This transition has given me a new appreciation for how admissions shapes not just enrollment, but the culture and future of our school.

At a classical, Christian school like ours, admissions is more than just filling classroom seats. It's about discerning fit and helping families understand what makes classical, Christian education distinct. It's about inviting them to consider whether our mission aligns with their hopes for their children.

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WHAT'S NEW?

Fan Store Opens

Great for
holiday or
birthday
gifts!

Gryphon fans, listen up! You can now show your school spirit year-round by visiting our online apparel store. The store has a variety of items from which to choose and everything is customizable to your taste. Plus, all purchases made are shipped directly to your home reducing the waiting time for pick-up. Please be aware that some of the attire offered may not meet the school uniform guidelines. Spirit apparel is not permitted during school hours for Grammar School, and Middle School students may only wear certain apparel on Fridays. The School of Rhetoric may wear certain hoodies, quarter zips, or t-shirts with the Monday/Wednesday/Friday uniform. The link for purchase will stay open continuously. Bookmark it with your favorites and start shopping now! Click here to get started: [NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS GRYPHONS STORE](#).



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, if ordered by **October 31**.

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.

To order EXTRA yearbooks for your family, use the Sign-Up Genius link [here](#).

After **October 31**, additional books will be \$55 and must be ordered directly from **Varsity Yearbook** (formerly Herff Jones).



We've been trying to reach you about your Virginia 529!

You must have been busy . . .

But there is still time to hear about a way to have a voice in where and how your state tax dollars are spent. Informational meetings will be held **each Wednesday during October at 7:45am** to discuss the VA 529 savings

plan which offers above-the-line tax deductions and the scholarship foundation which gives tax credits to donors. The meeting will last about 30 minutes and then you can get to work. Sign up here to reserve your spot: <http://bit.ly/4p4aVs8>.

Please make time in your schedule to attend one of these meetings. It will not be a waste of your time!



SPORTS RESULTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

7/8 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL	
New Covenant.....	2
James River Day	1

5/6 JR GRYPHONS GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL	
New Covenant.....	2
James River Day	1

5/6 JR GRYPHONS BOYS' SOCCER	
James River Day	4
New Covenant.....	2

7/8 BOYS' SOCCER	
James River Day	0
New Covenant.....	4

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

7/8 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL	
New Covenant.....	0
Timberlake Christian	2

JV GIRL'S VOLLEYBALL	
New Covenant.....	0
Timberlake Christian	2

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL	
New Covenant.....	3
Timberlake Christian	0

JV BOYS' SOCCER	
New Covenant.....	3
Carlisle School.....	1

VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER	
New Covenant.....	8
Carlisle School.....	0

5/6 JR GRYPHONS GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL	
Lynchburg Homeschool	0
New Covenant.....	2

MS CROSS COUNTRY MEET	
MS Girls	1st Place
MS Boys	1st Place

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

JV BOYS' SOCCER	
VES	0
New Covenant.....	0

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL	
New Covenant.....	3
Kenston Forest.....	0

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

7/8 BOYS' SOCCER	
New Covenant.....	0
SWVA Homeschool.....	7

7/8 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL	
Covenant School.....	0
New Covenant.....	2

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

5/6 JR GRYPHONS GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL	
Timberlake Christian	1
New Covenant.....	2

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

HALF-DAY DISMISSAL

There will be a noon dismissal on **Wednesday, October 8** to begin Fall Break.

FALL BREAK

There will be no school and the office will be closed for our Fall Break **Thursday, October 9 - Monday, October 13**. Students return on **Tuesday, October 14**.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL POETRY RECITAL

Join us **Friday, October 17**, in the Moomaw Center at 8:15am. All are welcome to attend.

END OF QUARTER

Mark your calendars for the end of the 1st quarter on **Wednesday, October 8**. Report cards will be emailed to parents on **Wednesday, October 22**.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found bins are purged at the end of each quarter. Be sure to check for any lost items before **Wednesday, October 8**.

PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN 2026-27

Now is the time to submit an 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. **Please note, if your child is currently enrolled in our Pre-K program you do not need to re-apply.**

Sibling applications for all other grades are also being accepted and will receive priority in our admissions process until **Friday, October 17**. 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

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

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**. See insert for more details.

NURSE'S CLINIC

The nurse's clinic opens daily starting at 8:30am. Prior to this time, the clinic will be available for medication drop-offs, parent meetings, and emergencies only.

MOMS IN PRAYER

Please join us this Wednesday from 2:00-3:00pm in the chapel for a time of prayer for our students, teachers, staff, and community.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

SOR PARENT COFFEE

Join us at **8:00am on Tuesday, October 7** to discuss affording college. We'll cover practical ways to reduce college costs and completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) that opened **October 1** for the class of 2026.

SOR TESTING

The SOR will have testing on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, October 15:** PSAT for Sophomores
- **Thursday, October 16:** PSAT for Juniors

Please ensure no appointments or absences are scheduled on these dates, as there will be no make-up opportunities.



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund	\$300,000	\$185,000
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$2,535
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$177,500 <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.

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Many parents are curious but uncertain about school options for their children. They may have heard of classical education but don't yet know what it looks like in practice. These are important questions, and they deserve thoughtful answers. Families don't just want facts; they want to feel confident that their children will be known and loved. They want to feel confident that their children will receive an excellent education that trains the whole person.

For those who haven't gone through the admissions process recently, it may be easy to forget all that's involved. The first step is a campus tour, where families get a glimpse of classrooms in action and get a feel for the culture of our school. From there, families meet with Mr. Heaton or the respective principal to talk more personally about their child and their goals for education. Next comes an academic screening, which allows

us to ensure students are academically prepared so we can set them up for success. Finally, the process concludes with an admissions decision from the admissions committee.

Each step is intentional, not only to ensure a good fit, but also to give parents clarity about what lies ahead and confidence that their child will flourish here. When we take the time to build trust and establish a clear understanding of our mission, families are better equipped to commit wholeheartedly to the journey ahead.

The admissions process also gives us the opportunity to tell the larger story of our school. Classical, Christian education is not simply an academic program; it is a formation of the whole person towards truth, goodness, and beauty. It equips students not only to succeed in college or career, but to think deeply, live faithfully, and serve generously.

As I step fully into this role, my hope is that every family who walks through our admissions process leaves with a clear sense of who we are, what we value, and how their child might thrive at New Covenant. Ultimately, admissions is not about numbers, it is about people, and it's a privilege to walk with families right from the start.

If you know a family who may be searching for a school home, I encourage you to invite them to come see for themselves. Sometimes a simple introduction is all it takes to open the door to a life-changing educational journey.

Tours are offered every Thursday morning or by appointment at other times. A self-scheduler is available here: newcovenantschools.org/admissions/schedule-a-tour/.

SCENES FROM THE SOR DC TRIP



QUID NOVI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASS OF 2026 • John Gauger, Nancy Hall, Chris Misiano, Sam Mizener, Tom Rogers, Anne Umbarger
CLASS OF 2027 • Dusty Miller, Court Shipman
CLASS OF 2028 • Neil Bonhert, Scott McCurley, Leann Perault, Leland Seckman

EX OFFICIO

John Heaton—Headmaster
Davidson Morse—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

MEN'S RETREAT 2025

November 14-15

Bold Branch Farm in Bedford Co.



GUEST SPEAKERS

*Ten Precepts for
Growing Strong Men
and Women*



Thomas Fickley
*Headmaster
St. Dunstan's Academy*



Mark Perkins
*Chaplain
St. Dunstan's Academy*

SCHEDULE

Friday, November 14

- 1:00pm Arrive and light refreshments
- 3:00pm Session 1
- 4:00pm Group activities
- 6:00pm "Swine and Sip" Dinner
- 7:30pm Session 2
- 9:00pm Discussion by the bonfire

Saturday, November 15

- 8:30am Breakfast
- 9:30am Session 3
- Noon Departure

COST

Friday only - \$33
Friday & Saturday - \$38

RSVP

bit.ly/mens_retreat2025

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