



NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC PROFILE '25 -'26

122 Fleetwood Dr. Lynchburg, VA 24501 | 434-847-8313 | www.newcovenantschools.org | CEEB Code: 471304

Founded in 1991, New Covenant is a Classical School for PK-12th grades serving 460 students from 12 zip codes in Central Virginia. The School of Rhetoric has 117 students.

MISSION

***New Covenant School of Rhetoric**, by the light of Christ and the power of the classical tradition, endeavors to form young men and women of intellectual and moral virtue, equipping them to live bravely for truth, goodness and beauty.*

LEADERSHIP

Rev. John Heaton,
Headmaster

Dr. Erin Uminn,
Principal of the School of Rhetoric

Mrs. Lauren Helm,
Director of Guidance
Helm@newcovenantschools.org

ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

VAIS: Virginia Association of Independent Schools

Society of Classical Learning

VISAA-Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association-- Division III

Blue Ridge Athletic Conference

STUDENTS IN
CLASS OF 2026:

27

SOR FACULTY WITH
ADVANCED DEGREES

100%

GRADUATES ENTERING
4-YEAR COLLEGES

96%

ACADEMIC DISTINCTIVES

The curriculum at New Covenant Schools is rooted in the liberal arts and **all academic classes are taught at the Honors level.**

All students in **ninth and tenth grades take the same core academic classes.**

Junior year, students differentiate in their math and language classes. Seniors can choose academic electives in math, science, history and language.

We **offer 3 Advanced Placement (AP) courses senior year: AP Latin, AP Literature and AP Calculus AB**

New Covenant follows a modified block schedule:

Math and classical language are 45-minute, year-long courses, while literature, rhetoric, science, and history are typically offered as 90-minute semester block courses.

Rhetoric & Thesis

Students use **logic and rhetorical skills** in all areas of the curriculum to think deeply and defend their positions rationally. **In frequent Harkness discussions, students initiate and lead class conversations** about assigned texts, learning with and from one another.

These rhetorical practices are incorporated throughout their coursework and culminate with researching, writing and defending their Senior Thesis.

Poetry & Performance

Each year of high school, students memorize and recite a lengthy poem to develop their skill in interpreting complex texts and performing to effectively convey meaning.

ACADEMIC REPORTING

New Covenant uses a **4.0 Weighted GPA scale, with +0.5 for Honors and +1.0 for AP.** The current highest GPA in the senior class is a 4.4. Class rank is not reported.

Grading Scale		
Range	Letter	Points
94-100	A	4.0
90-93	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-77	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.7

HONORS DISTINCTIONS

Year-end honors are based on grades in academic core classes and academic electives

Summa Cum Laude: A (> 94%) in all classes

Magna Cum Laude: A- (>90%) in all classes

Cum Laude: B+ (> 87%) in all classes

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

All students belong to one of four houses.

The house system builds community across grade levels and offer opportunities for students to engage in intramural competition, serve in student government and organize social events. Each house elects **two representatives to serve on the house council.**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

GRADE	LITERATURE	HISTORY	MATH	SCIENCE	LANGUAGE	THEOLOGY	RHETORIC	MUSIC & FINE ARTS
9	Honors Western Literature I	Honors Western Civilization I	Honors Algebra I (8th grade) Honors Geometry	Honors Physics	Honors Latin I (8th grade) Honors Latin II	Honors Theology I	Honors Rhetoric I	3 Required Fine Arts Credits 1 Music Credit: <i>Band, Orchestra or Choral Music</i> .5 Visual Art Credit: <i>Art Media I, II or Graphic Design</i> .5 Drama Credit: <i>Drama Performance, Drama Appreciation or Winter Play</i> 1 Elective Arts Credit from above courses 1 Physical Education Credit
10	Honors Western Literature II	Honors Western Civilization II	Honors Algebra II	Honors Chemistry	Honors Latin III	Honors Theology II	Honors Rhetoric II	
11	Honors British Literature	Honors US History	Honors Pre-Calculus Honors Math for Liberal Arts	Honors Biology	Honors Latin IV Honors Greek I	Honors Theology III		
12	AP Literature American	Honors Modern History	AP Calculus AB Honors Statistics	Honors Universal Science Honors Environmental Science	AP Latin Honors Greek II		Honors Senior Thesis	
REQUIRED CREDITS	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	4

Required Courses
 Academic Electives--minimum of 3 for a total of **27 Credits**

NOTABLE ADVANCED COURSES

Senior Thesis	Every senior completes a year-long Senior Thesis on a topic of their choice with extensive scholarly research that culminates in a 15-20 page research paper with a presentation and defense before faculty and peers.
Universal Science	Honors Universal Science is our highest-level science course, which combines one semester of advanced physics (vector mechanics and electromagnetism) and one semester of advanced biochemistry (microbiology and organic chemistry).
Modern History	Honors Modern History is our highest-level history course that covers the 20th century with a global perspective , beginning with WWI through the present. The students engage through Socratic dialogue and scholarly research and writing.
Greek II	An upper-level classical language course that parallels Latin IV/V in its focus on translation and reading of primary texts.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES 2021-2025

Anderson University American University Appalachian State University Auburn University Belmont University Berry College Biola University Bridgewater University Butler University Cedarville University Christopher Newport University The Citadel Clemson University Coastal Carolina University College of William and Mary Concord University Covenant College	Davidson College East Carolina University East Tennessee State University Eastern University Eckerd College Elon University Embry-Riddle University Emerson College Flagler College Florida State University Fordham University Gardner-Webb University George Mason University George Washington University Georgia State University Grove City College Hampden-Sydney College Harding University High Point University	Howard University Indiana University- Bloomington James Madison University Lehigh University Liberty University Longwood University Malone College Marshall University Milligan College North Carolina State University Norwich University Old Dominion University Palm Beach Atlantic University Pepperdine University Purdue University Queens University of Charlotte Radford University Randolph College Randolph-Macon College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Roanoke College Samford University Shenandoah University The College at Southeastern Sweet Briar College Taylor University University of Alabama University of Colorado Springs University of Georgia University of Kentucky University of Indianapolis University of Lynchburg University of Maine University of Maryland University of Michigan University of Missouri University of Miami UNC-Greensboro	University of Pittsburgh University of Rochester University of South Carolina University of Southern Florida University of Tennessee University of Virginia U.S. Merchant Marines Academy United States Naval Academy Vanderbilt University Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia Military Institute Virginia Tech Virginia Technical Institute Wake Forest University Western Carolina University West Virginia University Wingate University * Class of 2025 Matriculations in Bold
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