



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

NOVEMBER 17, 2025  
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## BUILT FOR THIS

by John Maynard, Athletic Director

“They were built for this.” If you are an avid follower of collegiate or professional sports, you may have heard this phrase before. It can be tossed around as a platitude or throwaway comment about certain groups doing what was expected of them. However, when I was in Richmond last Saturday watching our Varsity Women’s Volleyball en route to their first-ever VISAA State Championship, the phrase popped in my head and a week later I can think of no other way to describe this remarkable group of young women and their head coach. They were truly . . . *built for this*.

All good structures should begin with a solid foundation and base. Even the Bible tells us that houses built on sand will wash away but houses built on rock will not fall. Of the eleven members of this team, ten of them played Jr. Gryphons (5th-6th grades) volleyball at New Covenant coached by several different coaches (including **Coach Rigg!**). The same ten all played Middle School volleyball, coached by longtime NCS coach Leah Trent. Eight of the eleven played on the same MS team at one time. In this way, this team has been in construction for as many as six to seven years. *Building for this moment*.

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## WHAT'S NEW?

### New Covenant Schools Wins “Best Private School”

Earlier this fall we asked our community to cast a vote for our school in the “Best of” contest run through the *Lynchburg Living* magazine. This magazine is freely distributed throughout the city and surrounding areas in many places that are frequented by weekly customers. You may have seen it near the shopping carts at your local grocery store. The publication holds a yearly contest which accepts votes (one per email address) for opinions on area businesses deemed the “best” in the city. **We are excited to announce that New Covenant Schools has won first place for the “Best Private School” for the year!** Thank you for your votes. We appreciate the confidence you have in our school and the good reviews you give to others who are considering a classical, Christian education. The award winners will be announced in the January/February 2026 edition of the magazine.



THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

# H O N O R A R I A

## ENOCH TAN RECEIVES THE UVA JEFFERSON SCHOLAR NOMINATION

Virginia high schools annually nominate a student in the senior class who best exemplifies excellence in the areas of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. Successful nominees demonstrate exceptional leadership talents, an understanding of the broader community around them, and uncommon academic abilities. The faculty of New Covenant has selected **Enoch Tan** as this year's nominee.



Enoch will now compete with others across the state for the Jefferson Scholarship which is intended to cover the entire cost of attendance for four years at the University of Virginia, plus coverage of supplemental enrichment experiences.

## 2025 FALL SPORTS AWARDS

### Varsity Cross Country

*Most Improved* – Max Fuhr  
*Gryphon Award* – Emma Haupricht  
*MVP* – Michael Seckman  
*MVP* – Gia Barlow

### Varsity Soccer

*Most Improved* – John-Paul Gauger  
*Gryphon* – Micah Xayavong  
*MVP* – Evan Bosak

### Varsity Tennis

*Most Improved* – Ella Dudley  
*Gryphon* – Sarah McCurley  
*MVP* – Olivia Hostetler

### JV Volleyball

*Most Improved* – Harper McClure  
*Gryphon* – Idella Olmsted  
*MVP* – Lindyn Cannon

### Varsity Volleyball

*Most Improved* – Ava Boettger  
*Gryphon* – Lydia Williams  
*MVP* – Naomi Rigg  
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### All-Conference

Naomi Rigg – 1st Team – Volleyball  
 Ava Boettger – 1st Team – Volleyball  
 Alicia Kenny – 1st Team – Volleyball  
 Embry Carlton – 1st Team – Volleyball  
 Evan Bosak – 1st Team – Soccer  
 Luke Cordes – 1st Team – Soccer  
 Ada Dudley – 2nd Team – Volleyball

Caden Smith – 2nd Team – Soccer

Michael Seckman – 2nd Team – Cross Country

Tinley Tucker – 2nd Team – Cross Country  
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### All-State

Michael Seckman – Cross Country  
 Tinley Tucker – Cross Country  
 Naomi Rigg – 1st Team – Volleyball  
 Ava Boettger – 1st Team – Volleyball  
 Alicia Kenny – 2nd Team – Volleyball  
 Embry Carlton – 2nd Team – Volleyball

## SOR POETRY WINNERS

Ashe Smith – Jefferson Cup Winner

9TH GRADE – Idella Olmsted (Winner), Judah Durand, Morgan Eggleston, Mac McRaven

10TH GRADE – Josiah Thornhill (Winner), Elena Andrade, Xander Arbaugh-Turner, Wyatt Copenhagen

11TH GRADE – Ian Gill (Winner), Emma Haupricht, Ruby Helm, Joel Ng

12TH GRADE – Ashe Smith (Winner), Stone Haibach, Ryleigh Taylor, Micah Xayavong

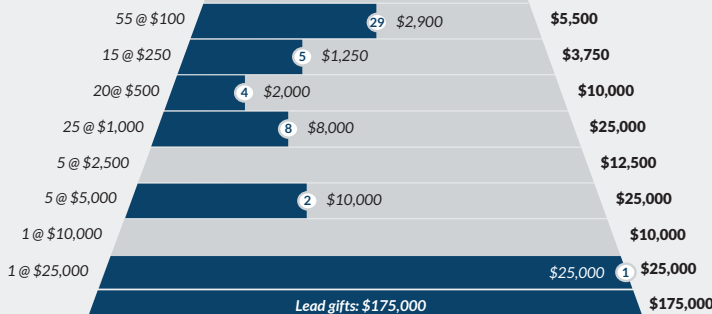


ANNUAL FUND 2025-26

Fundraising goal: \$300,000

Received as of  
11/17/25:  
**\$224,180**

### GAME FIELD RENOVATIONS



## FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund	\$300,000	\$224,180
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$2,580
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged \$267,700 Received \$190,442

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.

# E T C E T E R A

## EVERYONE

### MS PLAY AUDITIONS

Auditions are scheduled for *Beauty and the Beast* and *Little Mermaid*. 5/6 grade will be **Tuesday, December 2**. 7/8 grade will be **Friday, December 5**. Both auditions will be from **3:00-4:30pm** in the Chapel. Auditions will include acting and singing. Students should prepare for the singing portion of the audition by practicing “Do You Want To Build a Snow Man?” from *Frozen* and “A Million Dreams” from the *Greatest Showman*. For any questions, contact **Ethan Roberts**, [eroberts@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:eroberts@newcovenantschools.org).

### 5/6 GRADE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us on **Monday, December 8** at **9:00am** to hear our 5th and 6th grade choir, band, and orchestra perform their Christmas concert.

### ALUMNI SOCCER GAME

NCS Alumni and their families are invited to join us on **Friday, November 28** at **4:00pm** for an afternoon of soccer, food and reconnecting with friends. **Michael Minnick** (Class of 2020) will be coordinating this event. If you have questions, please email him at [michael.minnick01@outlook.com](mailto:michael.minnick01@outlook.com). For planning purposes, we ask you to RSVP by using this link: [bit.ly/NCSAlumni2025](https://bit.ly/NCSAlumni2025).

### SOR DIVE TRIP 2027

Parents of current 8th-11th graders are invited to join us **today** at **5:30pm** in the chapel to learn more about the Marine Science Trip to Anthony's Key Resort in Roatan, Honduras during J-Term 2027.

### LUNCH ORDERING

Third-quarter lunch ordering will open **Monday, December 1** and will cover

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

School will break for Thanksgiving from **Monday, November 24 – Friday, November 28**. Students return on Monday, December 1.

lunch dates from January 5 to March 12. SOR students off campus all day during J-Term may still order quarterly options; their account will be credited for the days they are gone. Questions? Refer to the *Lunch Times* article [here](#), or contact **Debbie Williamson** at [dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org).

### TEACHERS' FAVORITES

Each year faculty and staff fill out a favorites sheet listing interests, hobbies, favorite foods, etc. If you would like a copy of a teacher's favorites list, please check the resource documents section of the app, or stop by the lobby desk and ask to see the Favorites Book.

### LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for an evening of Lessons and Carols at Waymaker Church on **Monday, December 15** at **7:00 pm**. This special program will feature the combined orchestras, bands, and choirs of the 7-12 grade students. **Please note that the following morning, Tuesday, December 16, will have a 9:00am start time.** All are invited to attend.

### TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for 2026-27 school year is accepting applications through **January 15, 2026**. For more details, refer to the email sent **Monday, October 27** from **Tiffany Fulcher**.



### GIVENS BOOKS & LITTLE DICKENS

This holiday season, as you plan your gift list, consider supporting our school library through purchases made at Givens. Here's how the program works: when your family (grandparents, too!) buy goods of any kind from Givens and mention NCS, we receive three percent of your pre-tax purchase total, which is given annually as a credit to our library. Please make sure that you mention New Covenant Schools to the cashier as you check out, and your purchase will be recorded.

### GRYPHON BASKETBALL FAN STORE

Show your school spirit by getting something from the new Gryphon Basketball Fan Store. All purchases made are shipped directly to your house. Click [here](#) > [NCS Basketball Store](#).

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### THANKSGIVING DRESS DAY

On **Friday, November 21**, Grammar School students are invited to dress as pilgrims or Indians in lieu of the regular Friday uniform. Students should still wear close-toed athletic shoes for PE and recess, and for safety purposes.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL

On **Friday, November 21**, at **1:30pm**, Middle School students will enjoy a special event planned by the 8th-grade council! Students should dress in long, loose athletic pants, jeans, or NCS gym shorts. Be sure to wear athletic shoes that you don't mind getting dirty. The afternoon will feature games and a fall snack.



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At least five of these players have committed to playing volleyball year-round. While others move on in the offseason, some of these players have chosen to work on this particular craft for months on end, taking few if any breaks. They have sacrificed other athletic opportunities to work and play volleyball almost non-stop. *Building for this moment.*

We also know that one of the only ways to learn and improve in any task is through experience. Pick anything that is difficult or stressful. It all becomes less difficult and less stressful with experience. Public speaking, math equations, building construction, and even volleyball. The more you do and the more you experience those difficult and stressful situations, the more comfortable you will be. It is also no wonder that when we seek expert opinions (think doctors, plumbers, electricians, coaches, contractors) one of the first things we'll look for is how much experience they have! How long have they been working in this field? Experience means you've seen more, done more, learned more. This team had that experience. This team is made up of players who have won conference championships, and just as importantly, lost conference championships. They've played and lost in the state playoffs, have won and lost against the best teams in the area and the state. The core of this team has played over 50 competitive volleyball games together over the last two years. Through all of that, they have been working and experiencing and learning. *Building for this moment.*

Even with—or perhaps because of—that experience, we all fail. Sometimes we fail over and over. Failure in a vacuum is not especially helpful. Because for



(Left) Coach Bryan Rigg and the 2021 Jr. Gryphons team with several future state champions. (Right) This year's team on the way to winning it all.

some, failure means the end. For those like this volleyball team, failure was simply an opportunity. Failure has led to learning, to re-evaluating, and therefore to improving. This team, though young, had high expectations last season and were selected to compete in the state playoffs after the regular season. They had to travel to Chesapeake for the first round and they lost. They lost miserably! They didn't play their best. Moreover, their process just wasn't yet complete. But here's the key: this particular failure prompted innovation, reflection, learning, and improvement. Coach Rigg and the players decided they wanted more. They decided their building needed more finishing and refining. So, they worked and they built. They started their new season in February. Not in August when the fall season should have begun, but in February. Then March, and April, and on and on. Not only that, but they also practiced at 6:00am because that's when the gym was available. When normal, functioning people (like me) were still in bed, these girls were practicing. This team has been working individually and collectively since February with a distinct purpose. *Building for this moment.*

They had put together a solid foundation. They had honed their craft. They had been through it all, seen it all, and done it all. They have learned through victory and learned even more through defeat. They have played big games and little games, hard games and easy games. They have practiced in front of the

coaches and in empty gyms and in backyards and empty fields. They have practiced before the sun rose and have practiced after it set. They have been building for the moment when that last serve hit the floor and they were crowned State Champions.

Now, we all understand we are never complete; the building never truly stops. We should always be aiming to get better and learn even more, however incrementally. And this team has already started talking about how they will train and practice in the coming weeks and months in an effort to repeat. But for this exact moment and this exact time, well, *they were built for this.*

## 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**