

Seniors last week presented and defended their thesis works to students, family, friends, and advisors for an engaging and stimulating conference-like event at New Covenant.



THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

MARCH 30, 2026
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TRANSFER VS. TRANSFORMATION

by John Heaton, Headmaster

We are now six years out, give or take, from the pandemic that began in the spring of 2020. It seems like a long time ago, but the memory of shutting down school that spring, pivoting to a digital environment, and figuring out work-arounds to get back in school remain as vivid memories. Long before the pandemic moved all education into online remote learning, public schools and many private schools were flooded with Chromebooks, tablets, and smartboards. By 2015 nearly every student was carrying a smartphone to boot.

Ten years ago admissions interviews with folks

considering New Covenant involved the hot topic of classroom technology. New Covenant was scoring low with many parents because technology in the educational setting, at least in their minds, was welcomed as an unquestioned “good.” Many were suspicious of a school that was not staying up with tech trends, and more than few were openly critical. The criticism implied that students learn better when technology is present and deployed, and that tech was essential for students growing up in a digital world.

The question was put to the test in March 2020

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WHAT'S NEW?

What's That in the Front Circle?



Most of you have noticed the large blue structure in our front circle as you have dropped off or picked up your student. You probably have wondered why it is sitting in front of our school. Let us tell you. Recently, a group of high school students participated in a J-Term class (January 5-13) at Vector Space where they worked together to build an outdoor playhouse. The house has an outer space theme with cutouts being created with a laser cutting machine and “controls” on the inside formed with a 3-D printing machine.

Our students took the week to design, plan, create, and construct the building. It has been given to Rush Homes for use in their annual “Playhouse” event on April 25 at Lynchburg City Stadium. You may wish to purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win this house. Scan the QR code on the banner to do so. We are pleased to see the handiwork of our students and congratulate those who participated in this project for a job well done.

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

ANDRADE EARNS TOP CELLO SECTION HONORS

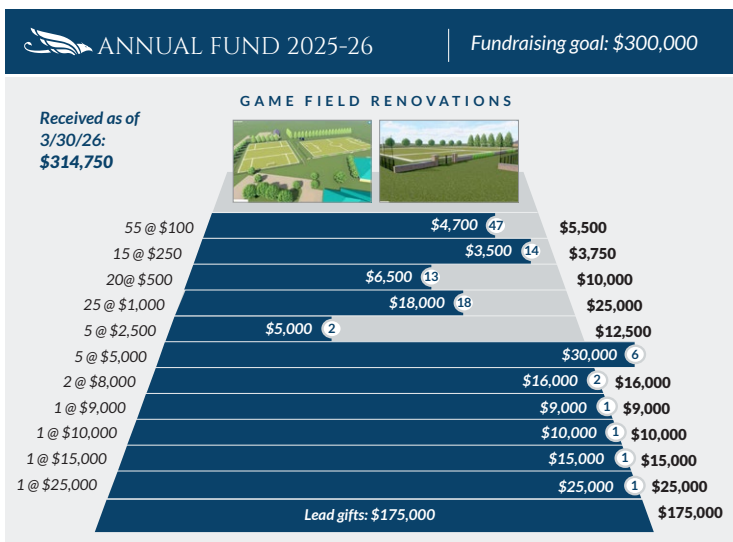
On Saturday, March 14, **Emilia Andrade** (8th grade) represented New Covenant Schools at the South-Central Virginia Junior Regional Orchestra Concert. This concert took place at Eastern Mennonite School in Harrisonburg, and Emilia performed advanced repertoire in the event's A Orchestra. Hundreds of orchestra students from across the region audition to participate in this event each year, and Emilia was awarded a spot in the cello section of the most advanced ensemble. Way to go, Emilia!



FOOD DRIVE

New Covenant will be collecting food items for the Salvation Army as part of our Hands & Hearts event. Consider donating any canned items, especially vegetables, canned meat, peanut butter, and pasta.

Please bring your items to the collection site in the school's front lobby now through the morning of **Wednesday, April 22**. Everything donated will be taken to the Salvation Army and processed by our students during Hands & Hearts. It will be well used by those in our community.



FUNDRAISING REPORT		
	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund	\$300,000	\$314,750
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$53,070
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$463,700 <i>Received</i> \$440,511
Hands & Hearts	\$50,000	\$22,984

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.

EVERYONE

EASTER BREAK

Maundy Thursday is **April 2** and students will have a **noon dismissal** that day. Easter Break will begin on **Friday, April 3** and continue through **Monday, April 6**. Students will return to school on **Tuesday, April 7**.

BREAKFAST WITH THE HEADMASTER

Join Headmaster **John Heaton** for breakfast along with other parents from New Covenant at the home of **Brittany** and **Rob DeRise** on **Wednesday, April 1** at **8:45am** or at the home of **Jessica** and **Tim Lee** on **Thursday, April 9** at **8:45am**. Please check your schedule and let us know you are coming: bit.ly/HHbreakfast26. Headmaster Heaton looks forward to visiting with each of you, answering questions, and sharing ways to support your child and participate in our school community.

HANDS & HEARTS

Thank you to those who have returned sponsorship packets to the office. Tickets will come home with the youngest student in each family on **April 13** and tickets will be collected at lunch **April 15 & 16** with prize drawings to be held on **April 21**. If you have not returned your packet and would like to participate, please bring your completed packet to the office as soon as possible.

REPORT CARDS

Parents will receive an email with a link to view student report cards **Wednesday, April 1**.

MOMS' NIGHT OUT

Save the date for our annual Moms' Night out on **Friday, April 24**. More details to come.

GS FIELD DAY

Our annual Field Day will be on **Friday, May 22**. This event is for our Grammar School students in grades 1-4. If your student in grades 1-4 will NOT be attending, please email **Avery Ducharme** at Avery.Ducharme@gmail.com. Knowing who will or will not be here helps when forming teams. Parent volunteers are needed to make this fun day possible! If you would like to participate as a parent volunteer, please sign up via Signup Genius at this link: bit.ly/Field_Day2026.

ISM SURVEY

We are committed to providing the best educational experience for our students and families. We invite you to complete a confidential survey from Independent School Management (ISM). **Wednesday, April 8**, you'll receive an email from ISM Surveys (surveys@isminc.com) with a secure link. Please check your spam folder if you don't see it and coordinate with other guardians to submit one response per household. Thank you for your honest, valuable feedback!

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

SOR PARENT COFFEE

Sophomore parents are especially encouraged to attend the next Parent Coffee on *Finding the Right Fit: Insights on Cost and College Options* on **Friday, April 10** at **8:00am**. We will discuss how to wisely guide your students as they begin considering their choices after high school, particularly focusing on affordability and practical insights that reduce the cost of college tuition.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HOLY WEEK

- April 2** **Maundy Thursday**
7:00pm
Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar
- April 3** **Good Friday**
12:00pm
Ante-Communion with Sermon
- April 4** **Holy Saturday**
4:30pm
Choral Evensong with baptisms and blessing of the Paschal Candle
- April 5** **Easter Sunday**
8:30am and 11:00am
Reception and Easter Egg Hunt between services starting at 10:15am

All Saints Church 
Lynchburg, Virginia



Scenes from Generations Day held on March 13 as grandparents, family, and friends visited our classes and campus.

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when every school in America was shut down. To be fair, no one was prepared for the mandate and all educators were put in an impossible situation. Teachers are not IT specialists, nor was it fair to ask them to pivot to an online environment in the space of a week. No school was prepared to pivot to digital format, and many didn't even try. Those that did—both public and private—quickly met with the consequences and stark limitations. Children had none of the scaffolding school supplies—structure, routines, social interaction, and academic support. Across the public sector absenteeism for online schooling was breathtaking. Even if one admits that the instant rollout guaranteed disaster, the fact that many jurisdictions avoided in-person learning for more than a year is astonishing.

We now know incontrovertibly that online classes were, in the main, an abject failure. That is not to say that online homeschool programs cannot be done well, or that online universities and corporations cannot conduct courses and professional development successfully. They can. What I mean to say is this: competencies can indeed be achieved in online environments, as proven by university and professional training programs everywhere. The online environment can be very good at *information transfer*. Motivated learners can successfully learn via a laptop in a biology course or in a corporate training module. Many children—perhaps most—cannot.

This, however, is not actually the main point. The real question is basic: What is the purpose of education? Is it merely instrumental, providing a competency for a particular job? If so, the successful transfer of information by nearly any means would be acceptable. If, on the other hand, the end of education is the development of wisdom and the habits of virtue, and not only the acquisition of a

set of defined skills, then we must consider that the process itself must be critiqued.

From the time that universities came into being (a distinctly Christian phenomenon) they were residential. If accepted, one had to move to a location, find housing if it wasn't provided, and literally live among the scholars and instructors. It was an arrangement that took students out of one world and transferred them to a world that was wholly "other," creating the conditions for total transformation of the person. English and American boarding schools followed the same model for the same reason.

The classical, Christian school is an image of that. Boarding notwithstanding, what happens inside our walls is as concerned with formation as Cambridge and Oxford ever were. We are deeply committed to learning how to think, what to love, and most importantly how to live. We instantiate this by being with your children, modeling virtue, creating routines, thickening habits, and offering instruction and correction. None of this is possible to any real degree in the online digital world. There is a marked difference between *transfer* and *transformation*. Our "product" or outcomes are not adaptable to online platforms, and therefore our outcomes are jeopardized through online learning because we are not striving merely at subject competencies, but rather at student transformation.

This is increasingly true as children grow into the high school and college years. Young people are uniquely open to a transformational process through interaction with peers and instructors, even as they are in the process of separation from their parents. Students in this age zone are not repudiating parents, but they are in a changing relationship to them, and they are critically influenced

by the individuals who share their educational environments.

The digital landscape will become ever more sophisticated with the advent of AI, which will wash over schools like a tidal wave. In a very short few years, artificial intelligence will be ambiently present in our lives and will absolutely change how education is pursued in many schools. Those who are concerned with mere information transfer take advantage of advancements in how that transaction is accomplished. We are not far away from "robotic teachers" which will likely render educators superfluous. Schools like New Covenant, however, have a more robust mission. Regardless of how new technologies are adapted into our lives, we have a higher commitment to a transformative life-to-life relationship to students with whom we gladly share our lives.



QUID NOVI

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



2026 SUMMER CAMPS

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL CAMP

*Rising 2nd - 5th Grade Girls
June 8 - June 12*

In honor of the United States' 250th anniversary, we will be learning about Felicity, who is from 1774! The American Girl Doll Camp will run for one week, **Monday, June 8 - Friday, June 12** from 9:00am-12:30pm. The cost is \$275 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**.

Register here: CLOSED



CERAMICS CAMP

*Rising 8th - 12th Graders
July 14 - July 20*

Ceramics camp is a week-long, hands-on experience designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of wheel-throwing. Students will learn how to create hand-thrown ceramic art from start to finish. This camp runs from **Tuesday, July 14 - Monday July 20** from 9:00am-noon. The cost is \$250 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. Camp is limited to six students. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/Ceramics_Camp2026

DRAMA CAMP 1 "THE FROG PRINCE"

*Rising 3rd - 5th Graders
July 6 - July 10*

(Play performance will be held on the afternoon of July 10.)

This camp will focus on creating a short performance of the classic fairy tale, *The Frog Prince*. Students will learn how to work together as an ensemble to present this clever tale of transformation. It runs **Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 10** from 9:00am-1:00pm. The cost is \$275 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. The camp is limited to 20 students. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/DramaCamp1_2026

DRAMA CAMP 2 "RAPUNZEL"

*Rising 6th - 8th Graders
July 13 - July 17*

(Play performance will be held the afternoon of July 17.)

Students will create a performance of the classic fairy tale, *Rapunzel*. Students will learn about staging, acting, costuming, and ensemble work as they develop this story during the weeklong camp. It runs **Monday, July 13 - Friday, July 17** from 9:00am-1:00pm. The cost is \$275 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. The camp is limited to 20 students. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/DramaCamp2_2026

STAYFIT CAMP

*Rising 1st - 7th Graders
Two Sessions*

Our annual StayFit Camp will be offered in two sessions this year. The camp will be Monday through Thursday each week with no camp on Fridays. The first session will be held **June 15 -25**, 9:00am-noon. The second session will be held **July 6-16**, 9:00am-noon. The cost is \$200 for a two-week session for the first child in a family and \$50 for each additional sibling. The cost is \$350 for a four-week session for the first child in a family and \$75 for each additional sibling. **The deadline to sign up is Friday, May 18**. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/Stayfit_2026

STRINGS CAMP

*Rising 5th - 12th Graders
Two Sessions*

The Strings Camp will help students of all skill levels develop their ability in a small-group setting. This camp will be offered in two sessions. The first session will be **Monday, June 8 - Friday, June 12**, 9:00am-noon. The second session will be **Monday, June 15 - Friday, June 19**, 9:00am-noon. The cost is \$250 and the **deadline to sign up is May 18**. Limited scholarships are available for those with documentable financial need. After completing the registration, you will receive a confirmation email.

Register here:
bit.ly/Strings_Camp2026