



The 2024-25 school year kicked off last week with the SOR's first day on Monday and Grammar and Middle Schools' on Wednesday.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

AUGUST 19, 2024
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FROM "YOUR" SCHOOL TO "OUR" SCHOOL

By John Heaton, Headmaster

The new school year is underway—our 34th—and we've welcomed 459 students back to class! There are 77 new students, of which 32 are in Pre-K—a new record! They represent 28 families who are in their first year of association with New Covenant. If you are one in that special number, we want to begin the year by making you feel welcome and completely at home in your newly acquired community.

The contrast between the "rookies" and the "veterans" spans more than a decade with 11 of our 26 seniors having started their journey in kindergarten. For some of those parents—you know

who you are—your graduating senior is one more in a series from your family, suggesting that your association with New Covenant has been as long as 15 or more years!

On the one hand schools are institutions, communities that hold and reinforce values and cultural norms, and strengthen the family through shared experiences of life. As such, they represent permanence and stability. On the other hand, schools can be inherently fragile because they are marked by an inherent transiency. When I graduated from college, for example, I was a member of a very popular fraternity (called "societies" where I

continued on p.4

WHAT'S NEW?

Audio QUID NOVI Coming Soon

New Covenant will soon be offering a new way to stay in touch with all that's happening at the school. Next week we will be offering a link to a Zipcast which will be sent to your phone number on record. You should receive it each Monday morning (between 6 and 7am) before your commute, and, if you choose, you can listen to it with your children. You'll hear a digest of "Et Cetera," and your children will enjoy the joke of the day offered by students in other classical, Christian schools like ours. In addition, you'll hear short but valuable insights on classical education and parenting tips from friends like **Keith McCurdy** of Live Sturdy. Check your phone next week for your personal invitation.

THINK. LEARN. LOVE. LIVE.

H O N O R A R I A

NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS CLASS OF 2025



The 26 seniors gathered at Convocation to commit the year to God's plan and purpose for their lives and their final journey through the halls of New Covenant Schools.



SPORTS SCORES

Friday, August 16

VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

New Covenant.....2
Blue Ridge Christian.....0

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....2
Blue Ridge Christian.....1

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....3
Blue Ridge Christian.....2

FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$57,000 <i>Received</i> \$20,421

The New Covenant Schools Scholarship Foundation exists to provide scholarships for students who would not be able to attend our school without significant help. Individuals who donate to this fund receive a 65% tax credit to be used against state tax liabilities and may use the remaining 35% as a deduction on federal taxes if itemization occurs. This is a way to steward your tax money and use it for a child's education. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

NEW COVENANT LAUNCHES PARTNERSHIP WITH ALLEGRO MUSIC

New Covenant is pleased to announce a new partnership with Allegro Music to extend our arts program with private music lessons on campus after school. Allegro was founded by **Julia Sansone**, a long-time friend of the school who once upon a time offered piano lessons. She returns with the Allegro staff with expanded offerings, although not without some limits.

Her staff will be providing opportunities for music instruction in piano, guitar, voice, violin, cello, harp and flute. For piano, students aged 5 and older are accepted, and all other instruments will begin with students aged 8 and older.

The kickoff for lessons will be **September 3, 2024**, and all lessons will be scheduled for Tuesday-Thursday. New Covenant parents can sign up directly with Allegro which has a very intuitive website here: www.allegromusic.school/ncs. You can meet their instructors. Choose the "Availability" button and follow the "Sign-Up Genius" to schedule your lessons.

All instruction will take place in various spaces at New Covenant including the band room, chapel, room 305 and the library. If you need to reach Julia Sansone directly, you can call her at 434.841.7374.



EVERYONE

LABOR DAY

There will be no school **Monday, September 2.**

MOMS IN PRAYER

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

AFTERCARE

This quarter's aftercare program is full and will not be accepting daily add-ins.

NURSES OFFICE

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

STUDENT PICK-UP/ABSENCES

If your child will be absent, please send an email by 9am to ncsoffice@newcovenantschools.org indicating the reason for their absence. If you need to pick up a student early for an appointment, email the time you need your student in the lobby. **A parent or guardian must sign out and in all non-driving students.** Parents who wish for their child to drive themselves to an appointment during instructional time (a scheduled class period), regardless of grade, must provide written permission for each occasion. Driving students are required to sign out and in at the lobby desk.

GRYPHON OUTFITTERS

The school store is open each Thursday school is in session from 2:30-3:30pm. For any questions, please contact **Lara Haupricht** at Gryphonstore@newcovenantschools.org

SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Back-to-School Fellowship

Picnic will be held **Friday, September 6.** Plan to bring your family and come join us for a good time together! More details to come.

RIDE SHARING

Be sure to update Facts Family Portal regarding who can pick up your child. To indicate who can pick up your child, log into Facts Family Portal, and go to: School > Web Forms > Family Demographic Form Transportation > Transportation Form. Enter those individuals who are allowed to transport your child. Click save when finished.

PARENTS WELCOME

We are grateful for the opportunity to welcome parents on campus. When you are planning your visit, please remember the following protocols required of our visitors:

1. All visitors must use the main entrance and be signed in. Please do not leave the lobby area without receiving authorization from front desk personnel (not even to peek in the kindergarten wing or front office)!
2. You are welcome to visit during your student's lunchtime; lunchtime is the appropriate time for visiting with students. If you wish to visit the classroom or have a conference with your child's teacher, please contact the office.
3. While lunchtime visits are welcome, parents of our youngest Gryphons are encouraged to avoid this practice early in the school year. Such visits often cause students—and their classmates—to become upset. By allowing your child time to become comfortable with routines before visiting, you are helping your student—and their classmates—to have a more positive school experience.



IN STEP

*In Step is a new feature in QUID NOVI offering ancient wisdom and up-to-date research for parenting and community life. Today we feature findings from **Jonathan Haidt's** new book, *The Anxious Generation*, pp.93-94:*

"The human brain contains two subsystems that put it into two common modes: discover mode (for approaching opportunities) and defend mode (for defending against threats). Young people born after 1995 are more likely to be stuck in defend mode, compared to those born earlier. They are on permanent alert for threats, rather than being hungry for new experiences. They are anxious." But . . .

"All children are by nature antifrangible . . . Overprotection interferes with this development and renders young people more likely to be fragile and fearful as adults."

"The worship of "safety" above all else is called safetyism. It is dangerous because it makes it harder for children to learn to care for themselves and to deal with risk, conflict, and frustration."

"Children are most likely to thrive when they have a play-based childhood in the real world. They are less likely to thrive when fearful parenting and a phone-based childhood deprive them of opportunities for growth."



The new 2024-25 faculty inaugurates the school year at Convocation held at Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church on August 11, 2024.

continued from p. 1

attended). Classmates outside our orbit knew the red derby hats and the standard sidewalk greeting, “Chi Delt, guys!” (that’s KI – delt). I had been the president of the society for four semesters, and our group was very well-known for having a great pep band, a massive bass drum, and for being rowdy at athletic events. I’m not suggesting that everybody knew who I was, nor did I care. One thing, however, was certain. When I returned to campus to visit only a few years later, walking across the bridge was like walking the sidewalk in New York City. Nobody—I mean, nobody—knew my name, nor did they care.

Schools turn over as students graduate. Within about four years or less, this year’s graduating senior will be unknown to most other current students. Moreover, as a parent of, say, a second grader, you may be completely unaware of the goings-on in sixth grade. I and my staff are keen to this natural phenomenon, and, while we cannot fundamentally change it, we are intentional about mitigating its effects and helping you invest yourselves in making our school community strong.

When I first arrived at New Covenant, now 27 years ago, I remember speaking with moms and dads about the school. Being new, I was trying to absorb the culture and the community as some of you are right now. On occasion, I remember saying something like, “You know, your school is . . .” A few astute friends quickly reminded me, “John, it’s

our school; you know, *yours*, too!”

I never forgot that, and now I am quick to tell new parents, “This is *your* school.” When a new mom or dad moves from speaking about “your school” to “our school,” I know that they have begun to own it for themselves and that they feel comfortable and at home in the community. I want that for all of us, and especially for the 28 beautiful families whose pictures are on display just outside the school office.

There are several things you can begin doing that will help you become part of us and feel at home. First, know that your children are already loved and that we value your family. Second, take the call you will soon get from a New Covenant Ambassador. That’s a parent who has volunteered to be deputized as a first contact for you as a mom or dad. You’ll be hearing from them soon as they introduce themselves and offer “roadmaps” to help you navigate. Additionally, put Eliza Olson’s email address in your contacts folder. She is our Director of Parent Relations, and knows nearly everything about what is going on (eolson@newcovenantschools.org).

Third, reach out quickly to other families in your class; get to know the other moms and dads because they are your immediate fellow sojourners. Cultivate the sensibility that you have begun a journey with many other travelers who are walking with you, raising their families, too, and meeting

the same challenges we all encounter in childrearing.

Fourth, make time in your life to attend your students’ recitations, special days and events. Schedule yourself to have lunch with your children, one of the very biggest delights that they have with you. Dads, this is an especially easy “win” for you! (See the one caveat in Et Cetera.)

The years you spend at New Covenant can be precious and meaningful. They will, however, be fleeting! Commit now to sharing the great joy of school and family. We’re looking forward to getting to know all of you.

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, Chaplain

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