



The Varsity Women's Volleyball Team were Silver Division Champions at the 2024 Jamboree Tournament in Roanoke on Saturday.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

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CELEBRATING OUR STRONG COMMUNITY

By Eliza Olson, Director of Parent Relations

This past week, I was in awe as several of last year's seniors stopped by on their way to college to visit their kindergarten teachers and get a hug before starting their new adventure. It was a simple yet profound reminder of the lasting bonds that are formed at New Covenant. These relationships, nurtured from the early years through graduation, speak to the deep sense of community that defines our school. It's moments like these that highlight how New Covenant is more than just a place of learning—it's a family whose members support one another through every stage of life.

In a world that is increasingly connected through technology yet often isolated on a personal level,

the role of community within a school setting has never been more vital. A strong sense of community enhances the educational experience, fosters emotional well-being, and provides a sense of belonging that can have a formative influence on students, teachers, and families. At New Covenant, community goes beyond the classroom.

When our family joined New Covenant, we expected our children to receive an excellent education, participate in competitive sports, and form friendships with their peers. What we didn't expect was the generous welcome and sense of belonging that our entire family would experience. From day one, New Covenant has felt like more than

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WHAT'S NEW?

The Marion A. Patterson Library

At the last meeting of New Covenant's board of directors, it was determined that the school's library would be named in honor of the school's first Grammar School Principal, now retired. On August 12, the board enthusiastically affirmed that the library would now be call the **Marion A. Patterson Library**. During her 27 years with the school, Mrs. Patterson's greatest joys were teaching young children to read and teaching literature to her middle school students. She touched the lives of hundreds of youngsters, inviting them into the world of word and story, as they started the journey of lifelong learning. Entablature noting this honor will be in place over the library doors by **Monday, October 7**.



H O N O R A R I A



SPORTS SCORES

Tuesday, August 20

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....1
North Cross.....2

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....3
North Cross.....1

Thursday, August 22

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....0
Westover Christian2

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....1
Westover Christian3

VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

Veritas School.....0
New Covenant.....2

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Girls' JV Volleyball will take on Kenston Forest High School at 4:30pm on Tuesday, August 27 followed by the Women's Varsity Volleyball at 5:45pm.

And on Thursday, August 29 Men's Varsity Soccer will compete against Grace Christian School at 5:00pm.

Concessions will be open both days.

ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL PICNIC

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Join us for an evening of sports, bounce houses, food, and fellowship. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

4:30p	5:30p	6:00p	7:00p
7/8 Boys' Soccer vs. Grace Christian School	JV Girls' Volleyball vs. SW Virginia Homeschool	Varsity Men's Soccer vs. Grace Christian School	Varsity Women's Volleyball vs. SW Virginia Homeschool

5:30p FOOD SERVICE STARTS

2024-25 SOR HOUSE HEADS ELECTED

ALEXANDRIA
Noah McCormick | Brey Welch

ANTIOCH
Lizzy Deneen | Ellie Jacobs

CANTERBURY
Alicia Kenny | Rusty Hooks

WITTENBERG
Cora Helm | James Brophy

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.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

LABOR DAY

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

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! See page 2 for more details.

MUSIC LESSONS

Allegro Music School has partnered with New Covenant to provide on-site music lessons to our students. There are a few spots still available for this school year on multiple instruments and voice, starting **September 3.** More information at www.allegromusic.school/ncs.

LADIES' BOOK STUDY

New Covenant invites the ladies in our community to join us for a six-session study of G.K. Chesterton's *Orthodoxy* during the first semester. The study begins on **Thursday, September 5 at 7:00pm.** in the NCS Library and will be led by **Davidson Morse.** To RSVP or for any questions, please contact Davidson Morse at dmorse@allsaintsrec.org.

PIANO PLAYER

The Grammar School is seeking a piano player for the 4th-grade chapel service, held every Friday morning from 8:10 to 8:40am. The role involves playing hymns and familiar praise songs. We welcome parents, grandparents, and friends of NCS to volunteer. If you are interested, please contact jsimpkins@newcovenantschools.org.

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.

AFTERCARE

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

NURSE'S OFFICE

The nurse's office 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.

PROGRESS REPORTS

First quarter progress reports will be emailed to parents on **Wednesday, September 11.**

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

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.

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.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

SOR PARENT COFFEE

The first Parent Coffee will be held on **Thursday, September 5 at 8:00am** in Grammar School Commons and will address "College: Practical Preparation and Perspective." Please come for a 40-minute discussion considering admission trends, planning college visits, and pursuing local educational opportunities, followed by time for your questions. Junior parents are especially encouraged to attend, but all SOR parents are welcome.

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.

A common question parents ask is this: We've been a little bit lax with technology in our home, and we are realizing that too much screen time is becoming a problem. How do we unwind the habits we have unintentionally started?

Keith McCurdy suggests that you start slowly. There are some circumstances that require you to go to the backyard and burn everything. This is not one of those things. Pick a day, say, Tuesday, and start no-tech Tuesday! That means no tech at all, no phones, no tablets, no TV. Nobody is on an electronic platform (unless required for work or school—*required!*). Parents will find that they will have to work hard to discipline themselves, but the reward will be that the board games will come out, children will go outside and they will find other, healthier, things to do. You don't have to reverse bad decisions all at once.

"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."
—Jonathan Haidt, *The Anxious Generation*.

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just a school. It has felt like home.

This sense of community is not accidental but is cultivated through intentional opportunities for connection. Whether it's volunteering in the cafeteria, attending school events, or simply sharing in the day-to-day rhythms of school life, New Covenant fosters an environment where relationships can flourish. The connections we make here—between students, parents, faculty, and staff—are truly what sets our school apart.

One of the many ways New Covenant builds this strong community is through its various events designed to bring people together. From sporting events that rally school spirit to new family dinners that ensure every newcomer feels included, there is always an opportunity to engage. Among these events, the Back-to-School Picnic stands out as one of the first chances to begin building those connections each year.

As the new school year begins, New Covenant Schools is excited to kick off the year with our annual Back-to-School Picnic on September 6. This beloved tradition is not just an opportunity for students, parents, and staff to enjoy a fun-filled evening—it's also a celebration of the strong sense of community that defines our school. Events like the picnic provide a relaxed environment for these connections to grow. The evening promises to be filled with activities that cater to all ages and interests. Athletic events will showcase our students' talents and dedication, while bounce houses and games provide entertainment for the younger crowd. Of course, no picnic would be complete without food, and this year we are offering hot dog and hamburger combos for \$7, with all proceeds benefiting the junior class and going toward their senior trip. It's a chance to enjoy a meal together while supporting a good cause.

Here is a schedule for the night:

- 4:30pm—7/8 Boys' MS Soccer vs. Grace Christian School
- 5:30pm—Girls' JV Volleyball vs. South West Virginia Homeschool
- 5:30pm—Food service starts and bounce houses open
- 6:00pm—Men's Varsity Soccer vs. Grace Christian School
- 7:00pm—Women's Varsity Volleyball vs. South West Virginia Homeschool

The event offers families a chance to reconnect after the summer break while inviting new families to get to know the New Covenant family. So, bring your lawn chairs or a blanket and come spend the evening with us. We look forward to seeing you there, reconnecting with old friends, and making new ones as we embark on another exciting school year together. As we gather for this year's picnic, let's remember that these moments of fellowship are what make New Covenant Schools more than just a place of learning—they make it a place where we all belong.

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