



Kindergarteners celebrate Charlotte's Web Day on Friday with farm event races.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

OCTOBER 28, 2024  
VOL. 27 NO. 10 MAJORIS

## ACCREDITATION—AND YOU

by John Heaton, Headmaster

By now you may be aware that New Covenant has announced that it will seek additional accreditation status with the Society for Classical Learning. I'm writing to let you know how you can participate; but first, let me set the table. Please read to the end of the article.

From a parent's perspective, accreditation does one thing: it ensures that the school adheres to a standard of quality that serves as a guarantee that any transfer of credits (certification of academic work) to any other school must be received and honored by the school to which a student is transferring. Accreditation is not necessary for college acceptance, nor has New Covenant ever been queried on this question by a university.

From an administrative perspective, accreditation agencies provide professional development and support for teachers, division

heads, heads of schools and even board members. This is a high value for the dues we pay.

On the one hand, New Covenant has been accredited with the Virginia Association of Independent Schools for five years. This is a Commonwealth-wide organization comprised of 94 schools with which we share some similarities. It has been a good home for us, and we have many "friend" schools, from SW Virginia to the DC beltway and down to Norfolk. In Virginia, the VAIS is the gold standard, but despite the fact that our school is accredited and in good standing, there are limitations to our full participation. While the VAIS gladly welcomes faith-based schools, the professional development it offers is often skewed toward a secular perspective which leans toward the embrace of a panoply of initiatives in gender questions and DEI matters, among others. To date,

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### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Campus Tours Each Week







Do you have a friend interested in attending New Covenant Schools? Prospective families are invited to join **Headmaster Heaton** to visit our classrooms and view our campus on Thursday mornings. Classes are filling for next year's term and early applications are encouraged. Visitors may schedule a tour by visiting our website through this link [www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/schedule-a-tour/](http://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/schedule-a-tour/). The site allows guests to choose a day suitable to their schedule. Additionally, **Linda Simon** is happy to answer any questions and welcome our guests. For more information, contact her at [lsimon@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:lsimon@newcovenantschools.org).

# H O N O R A R I A

## MS POETRY FINALISTS AND WINNERS



MS Poetry Finalists. Front (L-R): Nolan Lentz, Emmy Roberts, Naomi Johnson, Vera Shesko. Middle: Kale Anderson, Tye Perault, Molly Lovell, Micah Morse. Back: Annalise Gutenkauf, Emilia Andrade, Alexander Quaranta, Naomi Roberts, Annalise Weber, Claire Reynolds, Idella Olmsted, Judah Durand.

-  Naomi Johnson—5th
-  Naomi Roberts—7th
-  **Jefferson Cup Winner**  
Naomi Roberts—A  
Valuable Gift by  
Carolyn Wells
-  Molly Lovell—6th
-  Judah Durand—8th
-  Grade winner



## SPORTS SCORES

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

#### VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

##### BRAC Quarterfinals

New Covenant.....	0
Covenant School.....	0
.....	W 0-0 (5-4 PKs)

#### VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	0
Timberlake Christian .....	3

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

#### VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

New Covenant.....	3
Grace Christian .....	0

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

#### VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

##### BRAC Semifinals

New Covenant.....	1
Blue Ridge School.....	2

#### VARSITY WOMEN'S TENNIS

Chatham Hall .....	6
New Covenant.....	3

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

#### VARSITY WOMEN'S TENNIS

New Covenant.....	3
Miller School .....	6

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

#### VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

##### Virginia Classical Schools Championship

Men – 3rd Place  
Women – 3rd Place

Michael Seckman – School record 17:35;  
2nd place overall

Gia Barlow – 22:26; 3rd place overall

## 8TH GRADE COUNCIL ELECTION WINNERS



Luke Ancona



Eleanore  
Seckman



Idella Olmsted



Jack Gauger



Meg Maslow



Knox Walker



Ada Dudley



Micah Harrison

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund	\$120,000	\$19,546
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$1,000
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$152,800 <i>Received</i> \$43,818

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.

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

#### VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

Earned the #2 seed in the VISAA DIII State Championship Playoffs. They will host a Quarterfinal Game at New Covenant on **Friday, November 1**. Time will be announced by Thursday morning.



# E T C E T E R A

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### GS FALL DRESS DAY

On **Thursday, October 31**, Grammar School students are invited to wear jeans, fall colored/themed shirts (orange, yellow, red, brown), and Friday shoes. Students will be visited by Smokey Bear for Fire Prevention Month and will enjoy fall activities and popcorn in the afternoon.

## SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

### SOR TESTING

The SOR will have testing on the following date:

- **Tuesday, October 29:** PSAT for all Juniors

Please ensure no appointments or absences are scheduled on this day.

### SPRING DANCE UPDATE

Please note that the date for the Spring Dance has been changed from **Friday, May 23** to **Thursday, May 22**.

### ATHLETIC AWARDS

Fall athletic awards for the School of

Rhetoric will be awarded **Wednesday, November 13** from **12:40-1:30pm** in the Workman Field House. Parents are welcome to attend.

## EVERYONE

### LUNCH ORDERING

It is time to order lunch for December. Lunch ordering opens this **Friday, November 1** and closes **November 15**. Please contact **Debbie Williamson** with any questions at [dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org).

### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

There will be no school this **Friday, November 1**. We will hold Parent/Teacher conferences that day from **12:30-6:00pm**. See email sent on **October 24** for sign-up instructions and links. **The deadline to sign up is Thursday at noon.**

### TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The tuition assistance program (TAP) for 2025-26 school year will accept applications beginning on **Friday, November 1, 2024**, and will remain open until **January 15, 2025**. **There is high**

**demand for assistance, and it is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so do not delay!** Be looking for a separate email today **Monday, October 28** with more detailed instructions.

### YEARBOOK ORDERING

Each family will have one yearbook automatically ordered and designated for your oldest student. To order EXTRA yearbooks, use the following Sign-Up Genius: [bit.ly/NCSYearbook2025](https://bit.ly/NCSYearbook2025). **Additional yearbooks cost \$35 each and may be ordered through October 31.** After October 31, additional yearbooks must be ordered directly through our vendor, Varsity Yearbook, and will cost \$50.

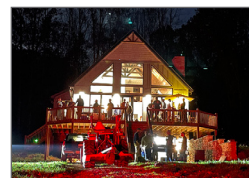
### YEARBOOK: SUMMER VACATION PHOTOS

If you would like to share a photo of your student(s) or family on summer vacation in 2024, please send a JPG to Yearbook Advisor **Mark Hernandez** for consideration by the yearbook staff at [mhernandez@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:mhernandez@newcovenantschools.org).



## ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

All New Covenant dads are invited to attend the annual men's retreat on **Friday and Saturday, November 15 and 16**, at Bold Branch Farm, hosted by Headmaster **John Heaton**. This gathering offers you the opportunity to meet other dads, eat great food, and enjoy the outdoors. Our guest speaker this year is **Keith McCurdy** of Total Life Counseling. He'll discuss building sturdy children and will be ready to answer your questions. It all starts at 4:00pm with early arrivals and dinner served promptly at 6:00pm. The cost is \$33 and will be charged to your FACTS account. Reserve your spot today by signing up here: [bit.ly/mens\\_retreat2024](https://bit.ly/mens_retreat2024).



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we have not been pressured to conform, and accreditation has not been contingent upon our acceptance of positions that are counter to our faith commitments.

On the other hand, the Society for Classical Learning, which was founded out of New Covenant School in 1997, has now provided its own accreditation of schools that look exactly like us. Just a few months ago, the Society won national recognition to accredit schools in all 50 states. Having served as an Arete Fellow of the Society for several years, I was tapped as a participant in the formation of accreditation standards, indicators, playbooks, and, most importantly, an accreditation philosophy that is qualitative and aspirational, and less prescriptive (read box-checking).

One of the unique features of this approach is the intentional inclusion of you, the parent community, to participate in what we refer to as generative

discussions about the future of New Covenant. Put simply, we are now at the point in the process in which we are reaching out to engage you, the valued parents of the children we serve, to bring you into a wider conversation that has already begun among board, administration and faculty members.

The first step you can take is to respond immediately to the link sent to you today via email, which will take you to a parent survey. Please take the opportunity to contribute to the process of accreditation and school improvement through an action that will only cost you a few minutes of your time. Then, as a second step, make a mental commitment to the forthcoming opportunity to join in the discussion by engaging directly with the accreditors who will be coming to campus in April of next year.

Finally, by seeking accreditation with the Society, the school is not leaving the

VAIS; rather, we are adding an additional accreditation from an organization that understands who we are in all respects.

## 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

# HONORS FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2024-2025

## SCHOOLS OF RHETORIC AND DIALECTIC

### THE HEADMASTER'S LIST

#### *Summa cum laude*

John Brophy, 12	Ellie Jacobs, 12	Melia Leitner, 12	Jenna Ng, 12
James Brophy, 12	Corey Hackenbracht, 12	Graham Kowalski, 12	Brey Welch, 12
Cora Helm, 12	Declund Stevenson, 12	Noah McCormick, 12	Ashe Smith, 11
Enoch Tan, 11	Grace Brady, 11	Ella Dudley, 11	Andre Frenchik, 11
Rusty Hooks, 11	Olivia Hostetler, 11	Alicia Kenny, 11	Ryleigh Taylor, 11
Ian Gill, 10	Avery Harrison, 10	Emma Haupricht, 10	Ruby Helm, 10
Charlotte McCarty, 10	Joel Ng, 10	Joseph Robert, 10	Michael Seckman, 10
Caden Smith, 10	Judah Weber, 10	Elora Williams, 10	Elena Andrade, 9
Xander Arbaugh-Turner, 9	Ava Boettger, 9	Peter Brophy, 9	Charis Durand, 9
Christian Henson, 9	Leila Kenny, 9	Lucy Kirshberger, 9	Sol Knapton, 9
Reese Mahle, 9	Kendall Morrell, 9	Mindy Morse, 9	Naomi Rigg, 9
Josiah Thornhill, 9			

### THE DEAN'S LIST

#### *Magna cum laude*

Emma Fritz, 12	Lizzy Deneen, 12	Jocelyn Walker, 12	John Scruggs, 12
Jack Duncan, 12	Lizzie Bryant, 12	Emma Kate Lovell, 11	Gia Barlow, 11
Luke Cordes, 11	Walt Gill, 11	Eva Andrade, 11	Alara Gezen, 11
Sarah McCurley, 11	Micah Xayavong, 11	Wyatt Renalds, 11	Ayla Gezen, 11
Hannah Edwards, 10	Journey Lancaster, 10	Charlotte Libbey, 10	Ellia Ramsey, 10
Embry Carlton, 10	John-Paul Gauger, 10	Elle Shesko, 9	Elle Vollmer, 9
Britton Basten, 9	Lizzie Miller, 9	Colton Buckner, 9	Wyatt Cole, 9
Wyatt Copenhaver, 9	Gabriel Leitner, 9	Emma Christian, 9	Addie Ruhl, 9
Alina Gieszczykiewicz, 9	Claire Hansen, 9		

#### *Cum laude*

Mary Kate Place, 12	Abby Burton, 12	Ellie Bonebright, 12	Lucas Gorman, 12
Graden Bolton, 11	Rosa East, 11	Nick Gieszczykiewicz, 11	Tristan Isenhour, 11
Ian Walker, 11	Nick Richmond, 10	Alex Fuhr, 10	Emma Compton, 10
Kylie Garnett, 10	Kelly Hoskins, 10	Alex Pemberton, 9	Alaina Hilton, 9
Kate Cordes, 9			

## SCHOOL OF DIALECTIC

#### *Summa cum laude*

Claire Reynolds, 8	Judah Durand, 8	Idella Olmsted, 8	Eleanore Seckman, 8
Bryce Hampton, 8	Luke Ancona, 8	Lillian Richmond, 8	Chloe Brophy, 7
Kalisteth Burrows, 7	Landis Hoskins, 7	Eleanor Bebeko Lane, 7	Tinley Tucker, 7
Elise Williams, 7	Nora Misiano, 7		

#### *Magna cum laude*

Micah Harrison, 8	Gwen Kesler, 8	Meg Maslow, 8	Annalise Weber, 8
Isaiah Tan, 7	Emilia Andrade, 7	Annalise Gutenkauf, 7	Tye Boettger, 7
Alexander Quaranta, 7	Callen Carlton, 7	Jackie Fitzgerald, 7	

#### *Cum laude*

Max Fuhr, 8	Jack Gauger, 8	Mitchell Rogers, 8	Henry Duncan, 8
Wyatt Gill, 8	Eli Rose, 8	Naomi Roberts, 7	Harper McClure, 7
Arden Shesko, 7	Lina Bengds, 7	Lindyn Cannon, 7	Charlie Rigg, 7

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## HOW THE ANNUAL FUND AFFECTS YOUR CHILDREN

**Y**ou may have received a letter earlier in the year which detailed the status of the Permanent Things Campaign. If you missed it, here is a short summary: the campaign set out to accomplish three things over a ten-year period: expand the chapel; add two classrooms and develop the “dell” into an outdoor gym; build cash reserves and retire all existing debt. This fall we were pleased to announce the success and closure of the campaign, which, when all obligations are realized will accomplish all of the above.

Currently the school is nearly fully subscribed with 460 student; however, we enjoy a campus that is completely built out to accommodate all current programming. We reiterate that when all commitments are received the school will be completely debt-free.

This means that we are not currently appealing to you to assist with any current building projects or debt retirement. We are free to pursue to the systematic upgrade of equipment necessary for current programming. This year, we are retiring one bus in our fleet and making acquisitions that will benefit the music program. Both of these positively impact all students. If they ride on a bus for a field trip or athletic event, or participate in choir, band or orchestra—and they all do—this is for them.

Our goal for this year’s Annual Fund is \$120,000. These funds will be used to replace an aging bus, and make purchases for the Fine Arts program. We plan to acquire new band/choir risers, an acoustic audio shell, and other audio upgrades, to improve the clarity of performances in the Moomaw Center. Here is how it breaks down. Since the purchase of our last bus, we have been saving, and currently have \$36,000 in hand toward this acquisition. In addition, support of the Annual Fund to date has been \$19,546 for a total of nearly \$56,000 in hand. The cost of the bus (I choke) is \$90,000. The remaining \$30,000 will provide for the other items listed above.

Please consider how you might participate in this year’s initiatives.

Gifts can made online by clicking the “DONATE” button on our home page ([www. Newcovenantschools.org](http://www.Newcovenantschools.org)).

Alternatively, you can make a gift through the development office by check. If you prefer you may contribute with a direct transfer of stocks/ equities or an IRA distribution. For assistance with any of these transactions, please contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office, and she can assist you.



THINK. LEARN.  
LOVE. LIVE.  
GIVE.