



Varsity Men's Soccer takes Fredericksburg Academy 2-1 Friday night to advance in the playoffs.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

NOVEMBER 4, 2024
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STUDY ABROAD AND TRAVEL AT NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

by Erin H. Uminn, School of Rhetoric Principal

A distinguishing characteristic of a classical, Christian education is the invitation into a deeply immersive and integrated learning experience for students. One of the ways that our program achieves this aim is through our Study Abroad and Travel. The travel opportunities offered to our 9th-12th grade students are a unique feature of our program, giving students the chance to explore with friends and teachers in carefully selected cities and regions around the U.S. and the world. These trips highlight the distinctive curriculum of the New Covenant classroom.

Washington D.C.—Every October, all 9th-12th grade students embark on a two-day overnight trip to our nation's capital with a curriculum that rotates

through a four-year immersion. After four full years in the SOR, our students will have experienced a significant portion of what D.C. has to offer. Highlights include a tour of the Library of Congress, the Monument Walking Tour, the National Cathedral, the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, the Supreme Court, the Capitol building, the National Gallery of Art, the Arlington National Cemetery, and the White House. Students also explore various museums to round out their study.



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WHAT'S NEW?

Athletic Achievements

New Covenant fall athletics has enjoyed success this season in soccer, volleyball and cross country. Our **men's varsity soccer team** is one of our strongest ever fielded, and finished the regular season 17-4 and #2 in the state (Division 4), despite being plagued by constant injuries. Punching above their weight against schools in higher divisions, the Gryphons scored wins this fall in tough matches against VES, the Covenant School, and Eastern Mennonite. In the VISAA state tournament our men advanced in the quarterfinals, defeating Fredericksburg at home on Friday night. The team travels to Leesburg on Tuesday to face Veritas School of Richmond in the semifinals. **Women's varsity volleyball** made it to the conference tournament championship against the Covenant School (for the fourth consecutive year). The Lady Gryphons took second place. Volleyball begins its state tournament tomorrow in Chesapeake. **Cross country runners** competed on Friday in the final conference meet, the men placing 5th out of 9 teams and the women placing 5 out of 7 teams. **Michael Seckman** was named First Team All-Conference and **Gia Barlow** earned Second Team All-Conference.

H O N O R A R I A

JACOBS EARNS DAR NOMINATION



Senior **Ellie Jacobs** is the recipient of the faculty and staff nomination for the James River Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award, a distinction of honor for her record of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. Ellie now has the privilege of participating

in the accompanying DAR essay contest, where she can express the attributes of citizenship that are essential to both a thriving community and a stable country. We wish her the best in this next challenge and are thankful for her example of faithfulness here in our own community.



SPORTS SCORES & HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

VARSITY WOMEN'S TENNIS

BRAC Quarterfinals

New Covenant.....4
Chatham Hall5

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

BRAC Quarterfinals

New Covenant.....0
Covenant.....2

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

BRAC Finals

New Covenant.....0
Covenant.....3

VARSITY MEN'S SOCCER

VISAA State Quarterfinals

Fredericksburg Academy1
New Covenant.....2

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

BRAC Championships

Men5th Place
Women..... 5th Place

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

Varsity Volleyball played in an unprecedented 4th consecutive Conference Final.

CROSS COUNTRY

Michael Seckman finished in 7th place to earn All-Conference honors for Cross Country.

Gia Barlow finished in 9th place to earn 2nd team All-Conference honors for Cross Country.

MEN'S SOCCER

Varsity Men's Soccer advances to VISAA State Semifinals in Leesburg, VA on Tuesday vs. Veritas School.



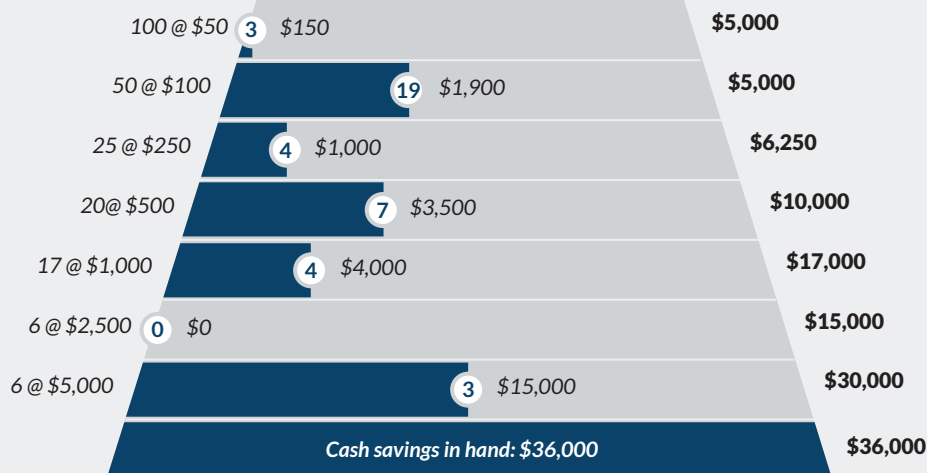
ANNUAL FUND 2024-25

Fundraising goal: \$120,000

Received as of 11/4/24: **\$61,550**



CHOIR RISERS AND GRYPHON BUS



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$1,000
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged \$163,800 Received \$47,318

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

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

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 the ceremony.

EVERYONE

LUNCH ORDERING

It is time to order lunch for December. Ordering is now open and it closes **Friday, November 15**. Please contact **Debbie Williamson** with any questions at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

THANK YOU, GIVENS BOOKS & LITTLE DICKENS

This holiday season, as you plan your gift list, consider supporting our school library through purchases made at Givens

& Little Dickens. Here's how the program works: when your family (grandparents, too!) buy goods of any kind from Givens & Little Dickens, we receive 3% 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.

WINTER UNIFORM CLARIFICATION

For young women: leggings are allowed, but should meet the socks, fit like tights (not sweatpants) and match the uniform. No wild and crazy colors—stick with blue, black, white or light grey. Leg warmers are not allowed. On days when the forecast high temperature is 40° or below, ladies may wear Flynn & O'Hara uniform slacks, even on dress day, with their normal dress day tops. For young men and women: long-sleeved t-shirts may be worn under long-sleeved shirts for extra warmth. If the t-shirt is white or navy or light grey, it may be worn under a short-sleeved shirt as well. You may not wear a hoodie under your polo nor a shirt with writing on the sleeves.

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.

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.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be sent via email on **Friday, November 15**.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

School will break for Thanksgiving from **Monday, November 25 – Friday, November 29**. Students return on **Monday, November 27**.



AROUND CAMPUS LAST WEEK



(Left) Smokey Bear visited Grammar School classes last week to raise awareness of fire safety. (Center) The SOR House Council sponsored its annual Trunk or Treat. (Right) An all-school assembly was treated to an excellent concert of the SOR orchestra, choir, and band on Thursday.

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All students enjoy the Kennedy Center for an evening symphony performance. This trip is built into the cost of tuition.

Cultures of Rome—As a classical, Christian school it is only fitting that a study abroad opportunity to Italy be available. This trip remains high on students' interest list and is highly



subscribed. Students explore the ruins of the Colosseum and view the breathtaking artifacts of the Vatican, bringing the classroom dramatically alive. Original art, architecture, and historic sites from the past 2,000 years create an awe-inspiring and beautiful awareness. Held every even year during J-term, this trip is guided by an educational tour company with on-site guides, and benefits from years of expertise and networking to provide the best possible experience for student groups. This trip is fee-based.

Marine Science—The sciences are a key feature of the New Covenant Schools curriculum. Some of our students have chosen career paths based on their science trip experiences, and this is especially true of the marine science trip. Held every odd year during J-term, students prepare by gaining scuba dive certification, and travel to the Bahamas for a live-aboard trip where they participate in multiple dives per day. Students learn about major marine ecosystems and current environmental issues therein. Upon completion they

earn their PADI scuba certificate! This trip is also fee-based.

Senior Trip: Out West!—After graduation, our newly-minted alumni hop on a plane for a truly unforgettable bonding experience out West, making lasting memories with their friends. The week highlights Arizona in all its beauty: the Grand Canyon, a UTV excursion through cacti and tumbleweeds to view the Vermilion Cliffs, a guided boat tour on either the Colorado River or Lake Powell. Breathtaking sites include Horseshoe Bend, a guided tour of red sandstone slot canyons, and a stay in iconic Navajo Nation. Built-in traditions include eating and shopping at one-of-a-kind restaurants, the Navajo Nation Trading Post, Sedona, and a last jaunt in Phoenix. Starting in 8th grade, a portion of tuition is collected for the senior trip, the balance of which is due in the spring of the senior year.

Mission Nogales—For over twenty years, New Covenant Schools has partnered with Cuirim House, a mission started by Brian and Kirsten Donahue in Nogales, Mexico, led by our school chaplain. Only a few short miles from



the U.S. border in Arizona, the mission seeks to provide the neighborhood with support and supplies. Students are challenged and encouraged in their faith through practical acts of service as they work with others in a completely different

cultural setting. Local food and games are a highlight of this experience. This trip runs every other summer in the odd years, and the cost is in addition to the tuition rate.

Amazon Forest in Peru—A new trip in our rotation includes a science-based opportunity in the South American rainforest. Students will tour Lima, enjoy local food and culture of the region, and embark on a multi-day excursion into the rainforest. The rainforest lodge serves as a daily base for hiking and activities to view plant and animal species. Exposure to the various wildlife makes this trip a true once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students. This trip will take place for the first time in the summer of 2026 and is planned to rotate every other year in the summer. Led by an educational tour company and on-site guides, it benefits from years of expertise and networking to provide the best possible experience for student groups. The cost of this trip is in addition to the regular tuition rate.

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

On Being a Father

A men's retreat for New Covenant Dads

Marriage.
Parenting.
Being a good husband.
Being a good dad.
It's never been easy, but it's quite likely that it's never been this difficult.

Be encouraged. Come to the men's retreat at Bold Branch Farm hosted by our Headmaster John Heaton. This gathering offers you the opportunity to meet other dads, enjoy great food, and hear from Keith McCurdy of Total Life Counseling as he shares how to raise sturdy kids.



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

4:00 pm Registration (early arrivals welcome)

6:00 pm Dinner provided by Retreat Chefs, Scott Speakes and Mitch Copenhaver

7:30 pm Keith McCurdy remarks and discussion

9:00 pm Campfire and conversation

SATURDAY

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am Morning remarks

9:45 am Group activities

Sign up here to attend – bit.ly/mens_retreat2024



RETREAT VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Adam Miller

Scott Speakes

Ben Hinson

Adam Lancaster

Mike Sharrett

NOVEMBER 15-16, 2024
Bold Branch Farm, Bedford, VA

Time: Friday 4:00 pm – Saturday 12:00 noon
Cost: \$33 per person to cover food expenses