



Women's Varsity Basketball kicked off the season with a convincing win over Grace Christian on Friday night.

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

# QUID NOVI

NOVEMBER 18, 2024  
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## IS WINNING EVERYTHING?

by John Maynard, Athletic Director

Athletics can be a hot-button topic in a private Christian school. Sometimes I struggle to understand the perception that the athletic mission and the school's mission cannot coexist. The conclusion I have come to is that we fail to frame athletics as a part of school mission. If the missions are separate entities, maybe they truly can't coexist. But if we view them as different pieces of the same mission working toward the same goals we can begin to see how they can work together.

When it comes to athletic philosophy within the educational setting (especially the Christian high school setting) the question I get asked most

often is a version of "So, are you all about winning? Or is it about personal growth and life lessons for our students?" I have a thought-out, built-in answer that inevitably comes spilling out, but I sometimes get the feeling that the answer is incomplete and my listeners walk away from the conversation without clarity and the definitive answer they may be seeking. Perhaps the reason is because the question itself has flaws. The question of "Is winning everything?" is incomplete because it assumes that winning and learning life lessons are mutually exclusive and an either/or proposition. Winning is not everything. I would argue, however, that our athletic

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### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Thank You Parents, For Your Time and Input

As you may be aware, New Covenant is in the midst of an accreditation process with the Society for Classical Learning. Our school is currently fully accredited through VAIS and will continue to hold that status. We are seeking additional certification through the SCL because we desire to be included in a pool of schools which look exactly like us, having the same mission and desired outcome for our students and community. Recently a parent survey was sent to each of you with a request to participate by completing it within a few days. You responded and responded well. **We had an almost 100% completion rate by our families!** This is an extremely high return rate. Thank you for giving us your time. Your thoughts are valuable to this process and will fare well for our school. We appreciate your participation. A team from SCL will be visiting New Covenant in the spring for on-site evaluation. We look forward to hosting them and reporting their findings to you soon after.

# H O N O R A R I A

## JOEL NG PLACES FIRST IN VIOLIN IN REGION



**O**n Saturday, November 9, **Joel Ng** represented New Covenant Schools in a high school honors orchestra concert in Charlottesville. Out of the 120 violin students who auditioned, Joel placed first and received the position of concertmaster of the annual Senior Regional Orchestra of South Central Virginia. This is the first time in school history that one of our students has received this honor. Congratulations, Joel!

## SPORTS AWARDS

### CROSS-COUNTRY

- Kelly Hoskins – Most Improved
- Melia Leitner – Gryphon
- Michael Seckman – MVP
- Gia Barlow – MVP

### VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

- Alicia Kenny – Most Improved
- Embry Carlton – Gryphon
- Jocelyn Walker – MVP

### JV VOLLEYBALL

- Morgan Eggleston – Most Improved
- Journey Lancaster – Gryphon
- Ada Dudley – MVP

### VARSITY TENNIS

- Ellie Jacobs – Most Improved
- Abby Burton – Gryphon
- Lily Richmond – MVP

### VARSITY SOCCER

- Carrington Thackston – Most Improved
- John Brophy – Gryphon
- James Brophy – MVP

### ALL-CONFERENCE

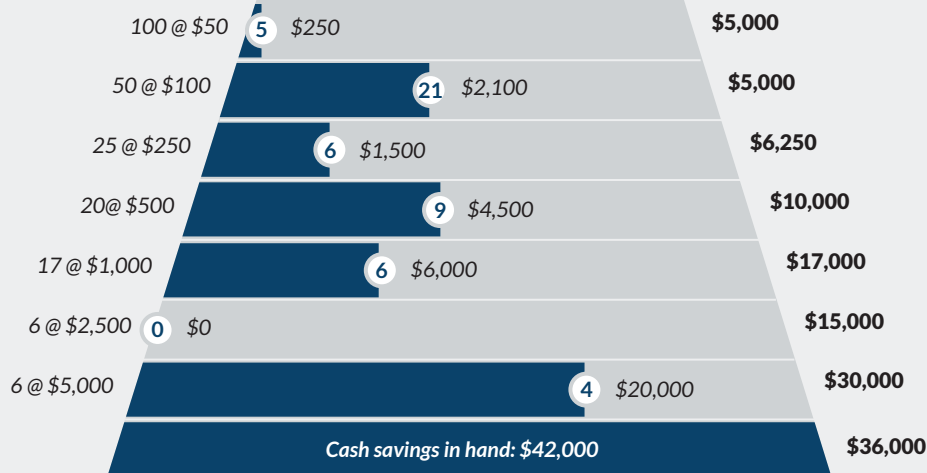
- Michael Seckman – 1st Team – Cross-Country
- Gia Barlow – 2nd Team – Cross-Country
- Lilly Richmond – 2nd Team – Tennis
- Evan Bosak – 1st Team – Soccer
- Lucas Gorman – 1st Team – Soccer
- James Brophy – 2nd Team – Soccer
- Cameron Edwards – 2nd Team – Soccer
- Jocelyn Walker – 1st Team – Volleyball
- Naomi Rigg – 1st Team – Volleyball
- Alicia Kenny – 2nd Team – Volleyball

## ANNUAL FUND 2024-25 Fundraising goal: \$120,000

Received as of 11/18/24: **\$76,350**



CHOIR RISERS AND GRYPHON BUS



FUNDRAISING REPORT		
	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund	\$120,000	\$76,350
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$2,500
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	<i>Pledged</i> \$230,300 <i>Received</i> \$122,129

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

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### THANKSGIVING DRESS DAY

On **Friday, November 22**, Grammar School students are invited to dress as pilgrims or Indians in lieu of the regular Friday uniform. Students should still wear closed-toe athletic shoes for PE and recess.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL

On **Friday, November 22, at 1:30pm**, Middle School students will enjoy a special event planned by the 8th-Grade Council! Students should dress in long, loose athletic pants, jeans, or NCS gym shorts, along with a shirt in the color of your team (team assignments are posted near the MS classrooms). Be sure to wear athletic shoes that you don't mind getting dirty. The afternoon will feature kickball games and a fall snack.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA TRYOUTS

Middle School students wishing to try out for the spring play, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, should plan on staying after

school on **Wednesday, December 11**.

Tryouts will be held from 3:30 until 4:30pm in the library. Students who are cast in a role will be enrolled in the Drama Exploratory beginning in January. For any questions, contact **Ethan Roberts**, [eroberts@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:eroberts@newcovenantschools.org).

## EVERYONE

### LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for an evening of Lessons and Carols on **Monday, December 16**, at Waymaker.Church, beginning at **7:00pm**. This special program will feature the combined orchestras, bands, and choirs of the 7th-12th grade students. Please note that the following morning, **Tuesday, December 17**, will have a **9:00am** start time. All are warmly invited to attend.

### PRE-K APPLICATIONS

Apply now for Pre-K, 2025-26! If you or someone you know has a child who will be 4 years old by September 30, 2025, they may be eligible for our Pre-K program. Applications are being accepted and you can apply by using this link. <https://www.newcovenantschools.org/admissions/apply-here/>



## THANKSGIVING BREAK

School will break for Thanksgiving from **Monday, November 25 – Friday, November 29**. Students return on **Monday, December 2**.

If you would like to tour or have questions, please contact **Linda Simon** at [lsimon@newcovenantschools.org](mailto:lsimon@newcovenantschools.org) or call the office at 434-847-8313.

### TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The tuition assistance program (TAP) for 2025-26 school year is accepting applications and will remain open until **January 15**. There is high demand for assistance, and it is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply early! Go to <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid/apply>. See email sent on October 28 for details and instructions.



## FROM THE MEN'S RETREAT THIS WEEKEND...

*New Covenant dads enjoyed a brief getaway retreat on Friday and Saturday at Bold Branch Farm for food, fellowship, and wisdom for life from speaker Keith McCurdy.*



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philosophy should be centered on these two points: The *pursuit* of winning and the *manner in which we pursue* winning are what matters.

If we take this into a specific context we can see this in action. If we were of a mind that “winning is all that matters,” what then do we tell our athletes when/if they don’t win? Was it all for naught? On the other hand, can we truly learn the great lessons of perseverance, preparation, hard work, losing with grace, and winning with humility if we were never trying to win in the first place? How can one persevere, work hard or learn to lose if they never had the intention of winning?

This is where we begin to see that the two must work together. There is too much at stake for us to tell our athletes that winning is everything, and there is also too much to lose if we just tell our athletes to go out there and have fun.

The second point involves the manner in which we pursue a winning mindset. Winning games, accolades, and championships loses its luster if we cannot be proud of way we achieved those goals. In the same way, if we pursue winning with a nonchalant, half-in attitude we cannot feel as if the manner in which we pursued our goals was a success.

With this mind we can see how the mission of athletics ties into the academic mission. We do not teach our students

that all that matters is making the best grade. We do not want to ignore the preparation, study habits, and mental fortitude that go into making the best grade possible *for that student*. If a

their fullest so that we can be a shining example and use those gifts to glorify Him. The refusal to do so is a disservice to our students and to the gifts which we have been given. So yes, athletics is

so much more than winning and losing. It certainly is about all the great lessons and physical, spiritual, and emotional growth as well. But it is our desire that we begin to see those as walking hand-in-hand with each other as well as in tandem with our overall mission and charge as student-athletes. Can you truly have one without the other?



**Coach Leah Trent (second from left) and the 7/8 Girls' Volleyball Team. After a win against Onward Christian, the team discusses and journals the lessons learned from the game experience—both in game skills and in team play.**

student makes a “B” because they put in the requisite time, hard work, and fortitude while another student makes the same “B” by rolling out of bed and taking the assessment, the results are the same but the accomplishment is much different. In broader context New Covenant encourages excellence at every turn. This applies to the arts, academics, athletics and even in the way we conduct ourselves. It is just as accurate to say that New Covenant also encourages the *pursuit* of excellence every step of the way in our students' paths to graduation.

We want every New Covenant student to pursue “winning” in all that they do. Our faith calls us to do that as does our desire to use the gifts that God gave us to the best of our ability and to

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### 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**