



SOR students experiencing a variety of learning activities during J-Term last week.

THE NEWSLETTER OF
NEW COVENANT SCHOOLS

QUID NOVI

JANUARY 13, 2025
VOL. 27 NO. 18 MAJORIS

DISCIPLINE AS DISCIPLESHIP

by John Heaton, Headmaster

During tours or admissions interviews I am often asked how our teachers handle discipline in the classroom. I always welcome the question. Parents are usually looking for clarity on our methods and approach when children need correction.

Correction, however, is a very small part of discipline. The word “discipline” is related to the word “disciple,” and as such, we should understand correction in the larger context of making a disciple – a disciple of Jesus. The first thing, therefore, is that the New Covenant classroom and the broader campus community is governed by a shared set of

values and moral commitments, chief among which are honesty, integrity, honoring parents and elders, and treating one’s classmates as one would like to be treated. The Ten Commandments are clearly taught in classrooms and chapel. Classrooms are structured with particular rules that reflect these values, and clear expectations and boundaries are set forth from the first days of school.

We are not concerned, however, with merely obeying rules. Christian discipleship is not reducible to behavior modification. We are more concerned with a child’s heart, teaching a child what to love

continued on p.4

WHAT’S NEW?

Annual Fund Update

This fall we announced that our Annual Fund would seek to raise funds towards the purchase a new activity bus as well as choral risers and an acoustic shell to improve performances in the Moomaw Center. An aggressive goal of \$120,000 was set before us. Our community responded quickly and by the end of November we had raised enough to purchase our fourth activity bus. It arrived mid-December and has already been used to transport our basketball teams to and from various games. Since then, we have continued to receive your generosity and are please to announce that **we have surpassed our goal by \$23,000—raising a total to date of \$143,800.** (See graph on page 2.) The risers and acoustic shell have been ordered and are on their way to New Covenant. Thank you for your participation in our campaign. All of our students will benefit from these new items over many years.

H O N O R A R I A



SPORTS SCORES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

JR GRYPHONS BOYS' BASKETBALL

James River Day	26
New Covenant.....	8
James River Day	25
New Covenant.....	12

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

7/8 BOYS' BASKETBALL

Onward Christian.....	12
New Covenant.....	25

JV BOYS' BASKETBALL

New Covenant.....	44
Fishburne Military	37

VARSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Veritas School.....	43
New Covenant.....	47

VARSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL

New Covenant.....	57
Fishburne Military	43



MURDOCK HITS THE 1,000 POINT MILESTONE

Congratulations to Junior basketball player **Cole Murdock** who hit 1,000 career points for his total Varsity career last week during a game against Fishburne Military Academy. Murdock completed 740 of his points as a student at New Covenant and currently stands in 6th place in our school's history.



Kathryn Martin, MS principal and Spelling Bee judge, gives rules for the competition.

BURROWS WINS SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to 7th grade student **Kalisteth Burrows** who won New Covenant's Middle School Spelling Bee for the second year in a row! The winning word was *egotistical*. The alternate—in case Kalisteth cannot participate in the Regional Bee—is **Eleanore Seckman** (8th grade).



ANNUAL FUND 2024-25

Fundraising goal: \$120,000

Received as of 1/9/25: **\$143,800**

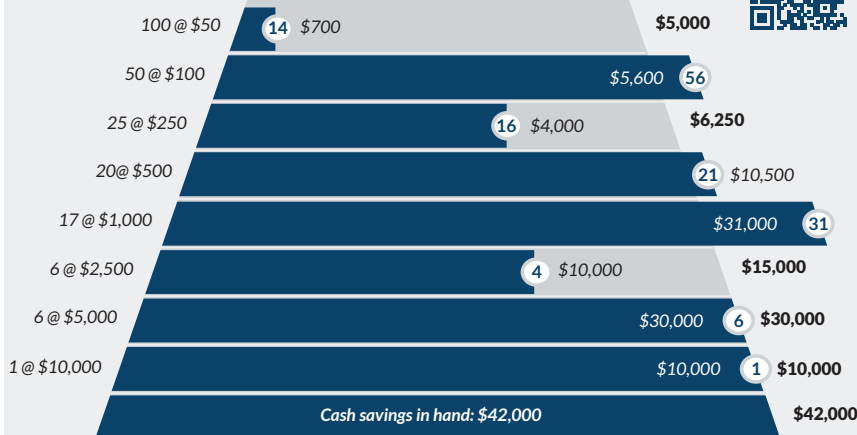


CHOIR RISERS & GRYPHON BUS

DONATE HERE



FULLY FUNDED



FUNDRAISING REPORT

	GOAL	RECEIVED
Annual Fund	\$120,000	\$143,800
General Scholarship	\$10,000	\$3,500
Scholarship Foundation	\$300,000	Pledged \$480,300 Received \$318,989

Thank you for your gifts to New Covenant Schools. Donations continue to be accepted throughout the year and may be given through cash, check, stock transfers, or IRA distributions. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent that the law provides. Contact **Dayna Renalds** in the Development Office for more information.

E T C E T E R A

EVERYONE

HOMECOMING

Mark your calendars for **January 31** and join us for Homecoming as we cheer on the basketball teams and reconnect with alumni and faculty.

Evening Schedule:

- **4:30-6:00 PM** – Alumni Reception in the Epic Hallway: Reunite with old friends and enjoy a special gift.
- **5:00 PM** – Women’s Varsity Basketball Game
- **6:30 PM** – Men’s Varsity Basketball Game

ART FAIR

New Covenant’s annual Art Fair will be held on **Monday, March 10**. See flyer for details.

THANK YOU

New Covenant has raised \$939.50 from August through November by shopping at Kroger. You can help New Covenant earn money by linking your Kroger account to our school. Simply log in to your Kroger account online or go to the app and select Rewards, Community, and New Covenant Schools to link your community rewards. Our organization number is IX901.

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP) – DEADLINE JANUARY 15

There are only three more days to apply for tuition assistance for the 2025-26 school year! Please refer to an email sent out on **October 28, 2024** for instructions.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT CONTRACT

In order to simplify reenrollment, New Covenant uses a Continuous Enrollment

Contract for students, allowing them to automatically be enrolled each year until graduation without having to resign a contract. **PARENTS WILL NOT BE ASKED TO REENROLL FOR NEXT YEAR. The opt-out deadline for enrollment for the 2025-26 school year is February 1, 2025.** The Continuous Enrollment Fee of \$150 will be charged to your account in February if you do not opt out. Please contact **Linda Hackenbracht** at lhackenbracht@newcovenantschools.org if your plans for next school year have changed.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

There will be no school **Monday, January 20** in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

ACADEMIC TESTING

Students in grades 2-8 will sit for CTP-5 testing **Tuesday, January 21 – Friday, January 24** and ninth grade will test **Wednesday, January 22 – Friday, January 24**. Please help your students have the best experience by bringing them to school on time, and by avoiding unnecessary appointments and absences.

LUNCH ORDERING

Lunch ordering for February is now open through **Friday, January 24**. Featured menu items in February include Mini Corn Dogs, Honey BBQ Chicken Bites, and Pancakes with Sausage, in addition to Chick-fil-A, Jersey Mike’s, and Turkey Taco Salads. For those who subscribe to the school milk plan, your lunch account will be charged \$35 for the third quarter in mid-January. Please direct any questions to **Debbie Williamson** at dwilliamson@newcovenantschools.org.

MUSIC LESSONS

Allegro Music School has partnered with New Covenant to provide on-site music lessons to our students. There are a few spots available for voice lessons in the new year. Call or text **Julia Sansone** at 434-841-7374 for more info.

REPORT CARDS

On **Wednesday, January 22**, second quarter report cards will be emailed to parents.

LADIES’ BOOK STUDY

Join us in the Marion A. Patterson Library at **7pm on Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 20, Mar 6, Apr 3, and May 1** for an engaging exploration of Saint Augustine’s *Confessions*, led by **Davidson Morse**. This study is open to all ladies connected with New Covenant (past or present) or All Saints Church.

Purchase your copy via this link: <https://amzn.to/40a3Hav>. Join us on **January 30** for an introduction and reading schedule. Whether you can attend all sessions or just a few, your presence is welcome. Please reach out to **Davidson Morse** or **Jessica Simpkins** with any questions.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC

NO SCHOOL FOR SOR

The SOR will not have school this **Wednesday, January 15**.



continued from p. 1

and what to value. It is important that we always articulate the moral reason “why” so that children connect their actions to the larger moral picture. Scripture equates correction with sustained teaching: “A fool despises his father’s instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent” (Proverbs 15:5 NKJ).

It is vital that the environment of the classroom and the daily routines of school are predictable. The rule-reward system should be clear to a student, and it should be perceived not only as fair, but fairly enforced. Predictable routines repeated over and over yield the benefit of habits, habits that become engrained in a student, and in many cases begin to show up in places outside of school. (I have been told many times that, because of their good behavior, New Covenant students are identifiable in other contexts where they gather with friends, from birthday parties to youth groups.)

Discipline is therefore a largely positive endeavor. It is concerned with habits of the heart which, over time,

inform character and lead to self-governance. With sustained practice, a student begins to develop sensibilities, the ability to discern what is appropriate in a given situation even when a moral choice is not immediately in view. This begins to approach the virtue that we call Prudence.

So, back to the question that parents really want to know. What happens when a child needs correction, as they inevitably will? In cases where students trespass a boundary, teachers are first mindful that in addressing a child, no matter what the offense, a student’s dignity should remain intact. Gentle correction in which a young student turns his “light” from green to yellow, often serves as a tactile warning, letting a child know that he needs to practice self-control. A “red light” will prompt a conversation with the teacher, and may issue in a visit to the Principal, and sometimes, though rarely, the Headmaster. In all serious cases, addressing a student privately is to be preferred.

Discipline often entails sanctions, a response that is decidedly negative for a student in the moment. When such consequences are imposed, they must be offered in a supremely supportive manner. Teachers must make it clear to children and young people that they are loved and that their actions have consequences for themselves and others. In the moment, as Scripture teaches, “No chastening seems to be joyful, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” (Heb 12:11 NKJ). This can be painful for parents too, who are sometimes embarrassed or appalled at the actions in which their beautiful children managed to engage. It’s alright to feel this way, but be sure to support your child’s teacher and avoid making excuses for bad behavior.

Christian discipleship has as its goal a long obedience one direction. Parents should be confident that such training is taking place every day in our classrooms.

MS SPELLS IT OUT



Middle School students and spelling judges listen attentively for the correct spelling at the annual MS Spelling Bee on Friday.

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

ART FAIR

PAINTING | MIXED MEDIA | SCULPTURE | PHOTOGRAPHY | FILM



Monday,
March 10

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR ART FAIR SUBMISSIONS:

- Students in K-12th grade may submit TWO PIECES of art in each of the five named categories.
- Student work grades 4-12 will be in the JUDGED art show.
- All submissions should be given directly to Miss Eshleman or Mr. Dunaway.
- Flat (2D) submissions should NOT be folded or on lined paper.
- Submissions MUST be unframed.
- All photography should be printed on photo quality paper (preferably 8 ½ x 11 or larger).
- Sculpture (3D) submissions should stand upright OR student should provide a base on which to stand the piece.
- Lego submissions will NOT be accepted.
- ALL pieces should be the CREATION of the student(s).
- Multiple students may collaborate on a single submission.

← Claire Copenhaver (12th Grade), 2024 Submission

ALL submissions due Wednesday, February 12th

Parents who would like to volunteer to mat/hang work, please contact Hattie Eshleman at heshleman@newcovenantschools.org or Michael Dunaway at mdunaway@newcovenantschools.org.