

COVENANT

Spring 2021

CHRONICLE



COVENANT
ACADEMY
A Classical Christian School

**COVENANT
CHRONICLE**

May 2021

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Features

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Ancient Wisdom FOR Modern Times

For the very first issue of *The Covenant Chronicle*, I thought it would be helpful to share some thoughts about how the idea of covenants in Scripture connect with our school's mission. Perhaps you're thinking that it seems a bit far-fetched for a small school in such a modern time to connect itself to such an ancient concept as a covenant. In ancient times, covenants were a way for people to partner with one another in a common goal. A covenant is essentially a promise of partnership. That doesn't sound so antiquated, right? Through a partnership, or covenant, God called one small family to become a nation that would bring flourishing and blessing to the surrounding nations. While that call was often compromised by the limits of that family's brokenness, God used them to reveal Himself to the surrounding nations. Tens of thousands of years later, He is still revealing Himself in new and ancient ways.

It's tempting in a fast-paced world to become complacent about how much we depend on God and one another to thrive as human beings. We might think that the only thing we need is a good Wi-Fi connection, but 2020 awakened us to something the ancients knew well –the human soul requires daily nurturing through good habits and good community. This winter's freeze awakened all of us to our daily dependence on electricity and running water. When praying the Lord's prayer, we might be tempted to think asking for our daily bread doesn't apply to us because we are accustomed to thriving supplies to

meet our demands, but we've learned how quickly and easily these supply chains can be disrupted. We are seeing our city experience another awakening of sorts--the shift from barrenness to flourishing as Houstonians do the hard work of tearing out dead shrubs and trees. This work can't be done with a click and a swipe, it requires the ancient practices of stooping, digging, planting, and waiting. Funny how those ancient ways apply to modern life. The truth is that humanity hasn't changed much, though our technology has. The more you read the classics, the more you understand how these great books still speak to us today.

We believe that students who learn to love what is true, good, and beautiful through loving Christian teachers will flourish as human beings. As they grow in the curriculum path of the grammar, logic, and rhetoric schools they learn to listen to others, reason well, and articulate their thoughts with increasing strength, grace, and confidence. As they move toward wisdom and virtue, they become more of who they are designed to be, flourishing images of God. As we graduate more and more classes, we send out men and women who can bring the love and wisdom of God to their workplace, neighborhoods, and churches. In this way our community receives the blessing of God one relationship at a time. This is essentially the same mission that God gave to that one family, Israel, thousands of years ago: ancient wisdom for modern times.



O Father, We have suffered a hard loss, and one that we cannot endure alone. May we emerge in the month to come, even in our frailty, stronger than before, more deeply rooted in you, and more wrapped in the necessary arms of community.

In the lunchtime liturgy that all Covenant students read aloud in the week following the winter storm, it was these few lines in particular that stood out to me. This year especially has shown me how much I need to be rooted in God and be in a loving community. The recent winter storm demonstrated that need again. I was discouraged by the events of that week, and even more so by the prospect of not being able to return to Covenant for weeks. Yet, within days of the storm, there we all were reciting our lunchtime liturgies in the courtyard just as usual. And it is all thanks to you, the Covenant community, who so quickly mobilized and eagerly wrapped your arms around each other and put in so much work to quickly restore the school. Thank you. I am so grateful for this community that God is firmly in the midst of, and I will cherish it forever.

-Joaquin Rivera



DRAWING BY EMMA SWEARENGIN



HERE IS FOURTH GRADE HARVESTING THEIR BROCCOLI AND MAKING BROCCOLI CHEDDAR SOUP



HERE ARE SOME KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS GETTING READY TO PLANT THEIR BROCCOLI!

Grammar School

WE ARE GROWING!



ABOVE: A MACRO PHOTO TAKEN BY VANESSA HAAS IN THE GARDEN. SHE IS IN 8TH GRADE. BELOW: 4TH GRADERS EATING BROCCOLI THAT THEY HARVESTED IN A YUMMY BROCCOLI CHEDDAR SOUP.

By: Lynn White

In a world filled with difficulties and trials, the goal of raising our children to be strong and sturdy has come sharply into focus for both parents and teachers. Equipping students with skills and independence is so important if we are to prepare them for life in a challenging world.

Gardening is a great life skill. If honed, it can facilitate an aspect of independence by allowing us to grow our own vegetables and fruit. At Covenant, grammar school students grow vegetables like broccoli, cabbage and kale in their class gardens. As they sow, water, and tend their gardens, they learn more than just the science. They are taught lessons about responsibility and nurturing. They learn that it takes consistent care, attention, time, and patience to grow a living thing. They also learn that they reap a harvest if they do not grow weary. All of these lessons help us partner with you to grow sturdy children who are able to stand strong when faced with the challenges of life.



FUN RUN

“A FUNdraiser”



By: Kit Burchfield

This year was even more important for a successful fundraiser since we couldn't do one last year due to the pandemic restrictions. The funds raised always goes towards very important things that tuition doesn't cover. We now will be able to get the parking lot extended.

As a grandma who isn't tied to a job, it has been my joy and pleasure to use the gifts and talents that God has given me to organize and coordinate it for our school.

This year we decided to plan and run the event without the big involvement of Boosterthon to increase our profit. It was a bit of challenge to start from scratch, but with the creative input from several people, I think we came up with a great program that the kids enjoyed. We had more success than I ever imagined, thanks to the amazing hard work and effort from all of our parents getting sponsors, the teachers keeping the students pumped up and the awesome parent volunteers who worked along side me to get all the events handled.

It was a joy to see our beautiful students with big smiles and be a vital part of something so important.

Next year will be another opportunity to learn and make adjustments to our process to make it even easier to follow and enjoy.

WE RAISED
\$51,671



Kindergarten perspectives:

Kabir: I had so much fun, I was dance-running!

Kash: I felt good when everyone told me I was running really fast and not stopping!

Genesis: Mrs. Collins cheered me on and made me run even faster!



5th grade perspective on being rained out and continuing even so

Dani: Although we didn't get to run as much as I'd hoped, I like the competition and it was fun to be a part of something so big for the school.

Isabella: I liked that we didn't get any classroom toys and instead got other cool prizes.

Emma: I'm so glad that we were able to raise money to get more parking for more people to join the school.

Logic School 7TH THROUGH 9TH



7TH AND 8TH GRADE WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD THE TALLEST MARSHMALLOW STRUCTURE.



HERE ARE SOME OF OUR 9TH GRADERS ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS HOUSTON. THEY WERE ABLE TO DO THIS AS A BOOKEND TO THEIR CLASS 'A HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE ARTS.'

IN 7TH GRADE SCIENCE, THE STUDENTS HAD TO PRESENT ON VOLCANOES AND BUILD MODEL VOLCANOES FOR ALL THE STUDENTS TO SEE. IN LOGIC SCHOOL, STUDENTS MUST APPLY AND PRESENT MORE AND MORE TO PREPARE THEM FOR RHETORIC SCHOOL. THEY BEGIN TO DRAW FROM THEIR ROOTS AND BUILD ON WHAT THEY KNOW.





INTRODUCTION TO OUR ATHLETICS PROGRAM

Athletics is a vital part of our culture. Our program includes students in grades five through twelve, and includes cross country, volleyball, basketball, golf, and track and field. Approximately 70% of eligible students choose to participate in one of our sports and many participate in more than one.

Our program gives every athlete a chance to play and a chance to learn and grow their skills in each sport, as well as to learn what it looks like to glorify God through athletics. We believe in training the heart as well as the body and when it all begins to come together, when the athletes start to understand what it means to push themselves and work hard as well as glorify God during games and practices, it is a beautiful thing. Our coaches come alongside our athletes and help them to see how to respond in a Christ like manner to challenges as well as successes.

This year has been an amazing year for our athletics program.

Our high school volleyball and basketball teams have worked hard and have grown and improved each year and are finally seeing the fruits of their labor. Our girls' volleyball team was ***number one in our district and advanced to the second round of playoffs, and our boys basketball team won the TAPPS 1A State Championship. Our own Eliana Seay was named the number one volleyball player in our district, and Witt Grooms was named number one basketball player in all of TAPPS 1A in the state of Texas.*** We were blessed and thrilled to watch some amazing athletes this year.

We look forward to each year as a chance to bring in new young athletes and continue to grow and train our current athletes. Come cheer on our athletes. Watch some great games. Enjoy being part of our Covenant community. Our fans are the best! GO PATRIOTS!!

JANET ANGST

Athletic Director





WHAT IS Rhetoric

By: Jimmie Ryan

The question on the nature of Rhetoric is one that many a Rhetoric teacher has likely explained at one point or another. Unlike math or history, its essence can be a bit more nebulous and harder to pin down. Over the years, this humble Rhetoric teacher has condensed the response into “persuasive speech-giving and writing,” but it has never felt wholly adequate. Yes, Rhetoric does involve persuasion, as well as the writing and giving of speeches—but it is also so much more than that. Rhetoric is an art. Rhetoric is us stewarding one of God’s most precious gifts to man—and when it is used for good and used well, it is the proverbial sword in the sheath for all things virtuous.

Now, virtue and Rhetoric go hand-in-hand, as a good Rhetorician is one that inspires trust, reason, and beauty in their audience. There is a caveat to this statement, however: with Rhetoric, your goal is not just to be the most trustworthy, or the most logical, or even the most beautiful—your goal is a harmony of the three. When a good Rhetorician possesses all three, Rhetoric possesses the power to affect people’s hearts and move them toward a change for the better.

Of course, Covenant is more than just a place that has a Rhetoric class—it has an entire Rhetoric school. And that is precisely because the process of growing Rhetoricians takes a village. In each class at the Rhetoric level, students receive instruction that, in some capacity or another, challenges and propels their Rhetoric path forward, whether that be the writing of an analysis of Jay Gatsby the delivery of a presentation on DNA strands. Much like a good Rhetoric speech might challenge or charge the audience toward some sort of action, a good Rhetoric school similarly challenges its students to grow in the realms of writing, speaking, listening, presenting—the list goes on.

And although the Senior Thesis might receive the most pomp and circumstance of any one singular Rhetorical entity, the bones and beauty of Rhetoric are cultivated well before such a capstone event, and its ultimate impact affects the Rhetorician just as much as the Rhetorician seeks to affect their audience. By truly pursuing this narrow path—by seeking to know and understand all things true, good, and beautiful—Rhetoric students are ultimately being grown into strong, virtuous followers of Christ.

THE Chapel Talk

One of the ways Rhetoric students are pushed and grown is through the Chapel Speech, where they are tasked with writing and delivering a scripture-inspired speech during Chapel. Of course, like any good Rhetorician, most students begin their Chapel speeches with some sort of quandary to be sorted out.

What does it mean to forgive someone who has wronged you? Why hasn't God answered my prayer? What does it look like to be in the world but not of the world?

These are big questions—and sometimes it is no small task to craft a speech that simultaneously touches the hearts of kindergarteners and seniors alike. Thankfully, most students have a guiding light they can follow when figuring out how to answer said questions: scripture. While Rhetoric

might be a powerful tool for cultivating virtue, all things start and end with the Word. It provides the perfect answer or illustration to whatever big question their speech might be pondering.

Now, given that Chapel Speech still adheres to many of the unwritten rules of Rhetoric, it should never just be the case that the speaker simply answer the question for the audience: they must give a call to action. If they have done their job well and used Rhetoric to inspire trust in their logical, well-said words, the Chapel speaker can then shake and move the hearts of their audience toward some sort of change or action. This is, ultimately, a microcosm of what Covenant seeks to do, from Kindergarten all the way to 12th grade: cultivating disciples of Christ that can impact the world long after they’ve left.



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Attending Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas to study Finance and Society, Ethics, & Law.



CHARLES LAWRENCE MIGGINS
Attending Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan to study Philosophy and other Humanities subjects.



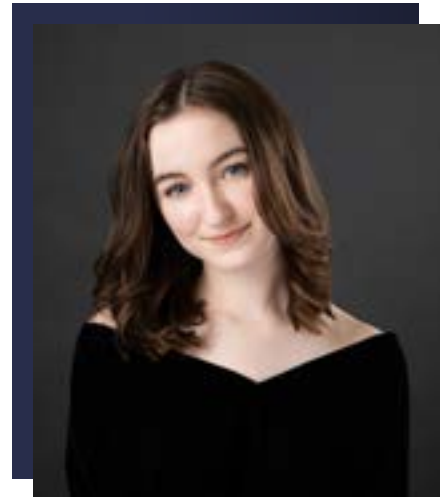
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2021
**Class
Scripture**

“A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES, AND A BROTHER IS BORN FOR ADVERSITY.”
- Proverbs 17:17

2021
**Class
Motto**

“ONE DAY, YOU WILL BE OLD ENOUGH TO START READING FAIRYTALES AGAIN.”
- C.S. Lewis

Save THE Date

MAY 31-JUNE 4: CAMPUS CLOSED

**STARTING JUNE 8, TUESDAY-THURSDAY 8-1 PM:
LIBRARY IS OPEN DURING SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS.
PARENTS, PLEASE HELP YOUR STUDENT WITH BOOK CHECK OUT.**

AUGUST 23: 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS