

Dear New Students,

Welcome to Covenant! I cannot wait to see what God will do in your lives and what each of you will bring to enhance the Covenant community. It is truly a blessing to have new students come up the mountain each year and infuse the campus with energy and excitement about a new school year. As you prepare to enter a new chapter of your life, which can be daunting, I want to offer you a few pieces of advice to consider as you come to Covenant

The first piece of advice will initially sound like an oxymoron, but it is important. Be serious and have fun. Covenant is not a high school. For many of you this will be the last step before you enter the "real world." You will take many difficult classes and grow immensely each year. Some of you may even find the person God intends for you to marry (Yikes!). So take the time to study for classes, since you are at Covenant to be a student. Be serious about growing in Christ. Be serious about finding friends that will last for a lifetime and push you to grow and mature.

However, don't forget to have fun. Classes are important but don't miss out on the other learning opportunities on campus. Hang out and become friends with those on your hall, in your classes, and in the Great Hall. Play intramurals; get involved in clubs; support Covenant sports; take a date to a school-wide event; or take advantage of God's creation by getting outside. There are so many opportunities to have fun and grow outside the classroom.

Second, be intentional! Some students come to Covenant and they twiddle their thumbs for four years, wasting thousands of dollars. Don't do that. Get involved! Make friends in various circles, and don't get swallowed up in a clique mentality. Get to know your professors, the staff, and the administration. They are here because they love you and want to serve you. Finally, get involved off the mountain. Find a church and plug into it and get to know people outside of the Covenant "bubble". This will serve to enhance your time when you are on campus.

Finally, as Robin Williams said in the movie Dead Poets Society, "suck the marrow out of life." This sums up the points that I was making above. If you are serious about your growth as a student, a friend, and a Christian, you will have a truly memorable experience at Covenant. The best way I know to live this motto is by living the motto of Covenant College; "in all things Christ pre-eminent."

Enjoy the rest of your summer and get excited for a special time at Covenant. I can't wait to meet all of you, and the Student Senate is ready to listen to everything you have to say. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to hear more about Covenant, please don't hesitate to email me or stop me on campus.

Peace,

Alex Anderson
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