Guiding Principles

Family Ministry

# At Veritas Academy we affirm that parents are a child’s first and best teachers. Parents are the single most influential factor in a child’s educational performance, as well as in the emotional, social and spiritual development of that child. Therefore, Veritas Academy seeks to assist parents in their God-given task to train their children in mind, body, and spirit (Deuteronomy 6 and Ephesians 6:4). By providing time, flexibility, and academic expertise, we promote a partnership that enables parents to adequately fulfill the Lord’s commands for the education and training of children for His glory. Veritas Academy provides a support structure for parents through leadership and character development programs, as well as through seminars for parents to deepen their own understanding of academic subjects, classical texts, and the way in which faith shapes their worldview.

Classical Approach

# The classical method of education is a three-stage approach to instruction with the goal of producing graduates who have mastered the art of learning so that they may skillfully acquire and apply knowledge, reason critically and articulate persuasively. Sometimes referred to as the Trivium (Latin for “three ways”), this approach consists of the grammar, logic, and rhetoric stages, each building upon its predecessor. Basic factual content and rules–the “grammar”–of any given subject must first be mastered; then an understanding of how to apply the facts–the “logic”–must be discerned; and finally, the ability to synthesize the foregoing into an articulate argument–the “rhetoric”–must be developed. The Biblical equivalent to this progression is found in the imperative to pursue knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

Cultivation of Delight and Wonder

# Veritas Academy’s approach has been influenced by the ideas of a mid-nineteenth century British educator of children, Charlotte Mason. Mason emphasized the use of “living books” and “living ideas,” the first-hand study of nature, and the importance of imagination and free play to the learning process. At Veritas Academy, our goal is to challenge our students without exasperating them. While we will maintain rigorous academic standards for our students, we resist a learning environment hampered by excessive competition or pointless drudgery. We foster wonder and delight in the academic process through hands-on learning, real-life experiences, field trips, and special academic events that bring joy to learning. A classical education should not be rigid or dull, but full of life! We want our children to not only learn, but to love learning.

Christian Worldview

# Education is never neutral. It is more than the mere transmission of facts; it involves the communication of life principles and values and, therefore, requires a spiritual context. Because God created, sustains and will consummate all things through His Son, Jesus Christ, we believe that facts, whether mathematical, historical, scientific, or otherwise, can only represent truth if they are taught in the context of a Christian worldview. This belief will permeate our goals and objectives, our teaching methods and our curriculum.

Christian and Non-Denominational

# Veritas Academy is a private, Christian school and an independently governed 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. It is not a ministry of any particular church or denominational body, nor does it promote or endorse any particular denomination. It is our desire to maintain this position for the purpose of unity and fairness to each student, avoiding any dissension that may be caused by denominational distinctives. As a Christian organization, all board, faculty, staff and student families profess faith in Jesus Christ.

## Programs and Methodology

# General Ambition

At Veritas Academy, we aim to offer the highest degree of academic excellence by employing classical, Christian curricula within a unique University-Model® course offering and schedule that preserves and strengthens the family relationship through increased time together. Both the educational approach and the model endorse the pursuit of virtue and wisdom in order to develop life-long learners and responsible citizens. We currently offer grades Pre-K through 12. Class sizes will remain small (generally 14 to 18 students per class) to foster individualized instruction and to enhance learning opportunities.

# University-Model® SchoolSchedule

Grammar School students (grades Pre-K - 4) attend classes two days per week (Mondays and Wednesdays) while SL students attend three days per week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays). By high school, students’ course schedules—with a mix of M/W/F and T/Th classes—mimic those of college students. Students spend alternate days at home where parents continue the instruction and/or monitor student progress. Professional classroom teachers provide parents with detailed lesson plans, instructions, and assignments for days spent at home. Parents need not have teaching experience.

# Flexible Enrollment

Veritas Academy caters to a wide variety of student needs by allowing a range of enrollment opportunities. A student may choose to take only one or two classes, or may opt to take a full academic and enrichment load. Much like courses listed in a college catalog, each course description contains information about the course, prerequisites, and parental involvement required for that course. Students are allowed to progress at rates matching their mastery of individual subjects, not necessarily grade levels; therefore, students may be placed up or down a grade level in any given subject. Tuition is paid per course, per semester or year.

# Admissions Policy

The student body of Veritas Academy is selected through a formal application process. Applications are made available to the parents of prospective students at informational meetings. Meeting attendance is required of both parents so that they may fully understand the expectations of their involvement in the education of their children at Veritas Academy. We ask each family to prayerfully consider its decision before completing and submitting the admission forms. A family interview and placement testing will be scheduled once the application has been processed by the Veritas Academy admissions committee.

# Student Conduct

*“It is by his deed that a lad distinguishes himself, if his conduct is pure and right.”* Proverbs 20:11

The purpose of Veritas Academy’s Code of Conduct is to promote a Christ-like attitude in its learning environment and to encourage the development of positive Christian relationships among its students. Virtues of Christian character such as respect for others and for God, love, obedience, and service are strongly encouraged through the school’s Code of Conduct and character development program. Discipline concerns are brought to the parents’ attention and principles of Christian communication and confidentiality are maintained in all circumstances.

# Dress Code

Veritas Academy’s uniform dress code is intended to reflect the school’s stated aims to honor God and disciple students. The purpose of a uniform is to instill an attitude of attentiveness and respect towards the students’ studies, to encourage modesty, decency, and propriety, to forge a distinctive school culture, and to de-emphasize the use of clothing as a significant means of establishing self-identity or gaining attention or social status.