

**VERITAS
ACADEMY**

Opening
Fall 2005
Grades K - 5
(then expanding)

Veritas Academy

The Newsletter of
Veritas Academy
(Austin, Texas)

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- Affordable college-prep school
- University-model approach
- Classical method of education with a Biblical worldview
- Family-focused ministry through a genuine partnership with parents
- Progression by mastery of individual subjects, not grade levels

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Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2004

A Classical, Christian, University-Model School for Austin!

A unique model of family-centric education is coming soon to southwest Austin. Veritas Academy, a classical, Christian, University-Model School, will open in the fall of 2005 for grades K-5 with plans to expand at least one grade per year through 12th grade.

Veritas Academy will be built around the university-model, a fast-growing educational approach in which elementary students are taught by paid professionals in the classroom on Tuesdays and Thursdays and then spend alternate days completing assignments in the "satellite classroom" at home under the supervision of committed and involved parents with instructional guidance provided by the teachers.



The school will offer a college preparatory level of academic rigor via a classical liberal arts and sciences approach and influenced by a Biblical worldview. In addition, Veritas Academy will offer student activities and Christ-like character development as it strives to preserve and strengthen the family relationship by partnering with parents to share in the academic and character development of each child.

First Informational Meeting — October 7, 2004

Veritas Academy will host its first Informational Meeting on Thursday, October 7, 2004 at First Evangelical Free Church in southwest Austin. Please join us from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to learn more about this unique model of education being made available to the Austin community.

Dr. John W. Turner, Jr., author of *Character Driven College Preparation* will be

our special guest speaker. Dr. Turner is the father of five and has been involved with the original university-model school, Grace Preparatory Academy in Arlington, Texas, since its first year in 1993.

Dr. Turner will address the key elements of a university-model school: parent involvement, character education and high academic standards. He will also dis-

cuss the success and growth of this type of school across America.

Members of our Board of Trustees will then present the vision of Veritas Academy, in particular. A time of Q&A will follow.

The meeting is open to all. If interested in attending, please help us properly plan by emailing us at: Meeting@VeritasAcademy.net.



A University-Model School® (UMS)

The university-model integrates challenging academics, student activities and Christ-like character development, and affirms the parents' role as the primary influence in their children's lives by redirecting time from the school to the family.

The UMS approach employs a university-style schedule adapted to the elementary, junior, and senior high levels. Paid professional teachers teaching in their areas of expertise conduct central classroom instruction. Elementary students attend classes on Tuesday and Thursday while secondary students go to school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Students spend alternate days at home where parents continue the instruction or monitor student progress. Teachers provide parents with detailed lesson plans and instructions for days spent at home. Parents need not have teaching experience.

The UMS approach caters to a wide variety of student needs by allowing a range of enrollment opportunities. A student may choose to enroll in only one or two classes or may elect to take a full academic load. Much like courses listed in a college catalog, each course description contains information about the course, prerequisites, and parental involvement required for that class. Tuition is paid on a per course, per semester basis.

INTERESTED

FAMILIES:

**Please RSVP for
our first**

**Informational
Meeting on**

October 7 by

emailing us at

Meeting@Veritas

Academy.net

Veritas Academy is an independently operated, non-profit, Christian organization that does not promote or endorse any denomination, nor is it a ministry of any particular church.

Veritas Academy does not discriminate against applicants and students on the basis of race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

A Classical Education

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.

Referred to as the Trivium (Latin for "three ways"), this approach consists of the grammar, logic and rhetoric stages, each building on 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 admonition to pursue knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

The Process for Admission

1. Attend an Informational Meeting to obtain an application. (Both parents must attend a meeting before the child can be admitted.)
2. Complete required reading (two short books).
3. Prayerfully consider whether Veritas Academy is best suited to meet your family's needs.
4. Complete & return the application.
5. Participate in a family interview.
6. Submit child for placement testing.
7. Receive acceptance letter.
8. Register student for courses.

Early Admission process for the fall of 2005 includes all full-time student applications received by December 15, 2004. All other applications will be considered in the Spring Admissions process on a space-available basis.

Our History

God has brought together four families to start Veritas Academy. Within days of initially discussing this unique school model with mutual friends, three of our founding family moms decided to meet and explore this concept further. Our first meetings were exciting and overwhelming at the same time. What did God have in mind for us, for our children, for our community? Each of us agreed that this model represented a noteworthy alternative to the educational choices available in Austin, but much prayer and diligent investigation was required to discover God's will for our individual families.

In March of 2004, we decided to visit the original University-Model School, Grace Preparatory Academy in Arlington, Texas, along with Christian Life Preparatory School in Ft. Worth, a two-year old UMS employing the classical approach. We were immediately impressed with the administrators of these incredible schools and with the results they had ob-

tained. We were also impressed and inspired by our meeting with the director of the National Association of University-Model Schools, Barbara Freeman, of Arlington.

Our drive back to Austin was a wonderfully exciting time as we prayed, shared, and reflected on all that we had experienced that day. In doing so, we became overwhelmed with the sense that God was appointing us to do more than just seek out an educational alternative like this for our own children, but to perhaps be instrumental in starting such a school for our community. Now the challenging part ... convincing our husbands!

Their initial reactions ranged from "Hmmm, interesting" to "What ... are you crazy?" But one week later, on April Fools day, three wives and three husbands met together for the first time to explore just how crazy this idea was. Much talk and more prayer convinced us to move forward.

Soon thereafter, husbands and wives visited Faith Academy of Marble Falls, a UMS in Marble Falls, Texas, and were again amazed at the strength of this type of school. God was clearly at work in the midst of this school and directing the paths of its leaders. Parents were actively involved and students were flourishing. Now, after seeing it with their own eyes, the men in our group became as enthusiastic as the women!

During these trips and weekly meetings, we recognized that God was blessing our time together, bringing us closer as a group, and surely revealing His plan. By May God had added a fourth family to our group, and we became a Board of Trustees. Together, we committed ourselves to bringing a Christian school to Austin that would promote academic excellence and character development within a schedule that promotes family togetherness.



OUR FOUNDING FAMILIES (TRUSTEES)

- ◆ **Stuart & Susan Nolley**
- ◆ **Dax & Jennifer McCracken**
- ◆ **Derek & Carrie Peterson**
- ◆ **Jef & Starrla Fowler**

A little about us ...

Our backgrounds include bachelor's and master's degrees in a variety of business and education studies; years of teaching experience in public, private and homeschool environments; and more years of corporate and entrepreneurial business experience.

Calendar of Events

October 7, 2004	First Informational Meeting
October 11, 2004	Early Admissions Open
November 9, 2004	Informational Meeting
December 15, 2004	Last Day for Applications for Early Admissions
January 2005	Acceptance Letters Mailed for Early Admissions
Spring 2005	Spring Admissions
August 23, 2005	First Day of Classes

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Fall 2005
Grades K - 5
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Coming Soon!
VeritasAcademy.net

Training hearts & minds for the glory of God

The Mission of Veritas Academy

The mission of Veritas Academy is to minister to families by partnering with Christian parents to provide for their children a classical education founded upon a Biblical worldview so that these children may commence a lifelong pursuit of knowledge, wisdom and understanding in their purposeful and passionate service of Jesus Christ, for the glory of God.



Veritas Academy has adopted a university-model approach which integrates professional instruction with parent mentored study and character development to achieve a college preparatory level of academic excellence.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will
walk in your truth.

Psalm 86:11

