

**VERITAS
ACADEMY**

Opening
Fall 2005
Grades K - 5
(then expanding)



The Newsletter of
Veritas Academy
(Austin, Texas)

**Distinguishing
Characteristics:**

- Christ-centered model
- 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

Calendar of Events:

Commencement of Early Admissions	Oct 11
Informational Meeting (open to all)	Nov 9
Last Day of Apps for Early Admissions	Dec 15
Mailing of Early Admissions Acceptance Letters	Jan
Commencement of Spring Admissions	Jan
Additional Informational Meetings	Spg.
First Day of Classes	Aug 23

Volume I, Issue II

November 2004

Informational Meeting — Tuesday, November 9, 2004

Praise God for the 150 people who were able to attend the October informational meeting and for the applications that we are beginning to receive!

We thank you for joining us to hear Dr. Turner's inspirational message regarding University-Model Schools, and we encourage you to return for the second meeting on Tuesday, November 9th. Please spread the word to any friends who might be interested, and remember that both spouses need to attend a meeting before a child may enroll in Veritas Academy.

Aaron Weast, who has been the Administrator of Faith Academy in Marble Falls since it was established in 1999, will be our featured speaker. Mr. Weast will share his unique perspective on the University-Model and the success that Faith Academy has experienced through a partnership with parents and a strong emphasis on academics, character development, and student activities. His enthusiasm will reveal his love for the Lord and his belief that parents should be the primary influence in their children's lives.

A number of questions from the first meeting will be addressed during this informational meeting and special emphasis will be given to the practical day-to-day logistics and advantages of attending a University-Model School. Please look for additional answers to questions within the FAQ section of the Veritas Academy website at VeritasAcademy.net. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!

Family Time

Dr. John Turner, the author of *Character Driven College Preparation*, was the guest speaker at our informational meeting on October 7 wherein he reminded us of God's command in Deuteronomy 6 to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give you

today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

In order for parents to fulfill this commandment, they must have time to continually engage their

children. In today's world where children spend 35 - 40 hours per week at school, little time is available for parents to impress God's Word upon their children. Dr. Turner shared an illustration (depicted in the accompanying graphic) showing the number of hours that children typically spend in school. In the graphic, the

Teach me your way,
O Lord, and I will
walk in your truth.
Psalm 86:11

Special Thanks
to these volunteers
and patrons who
have contributed
so generously to
Veritas Academy

Peg Raiford

Bobbie Hazeltine

**Mr. & Mrs. Cliff
Fischer**

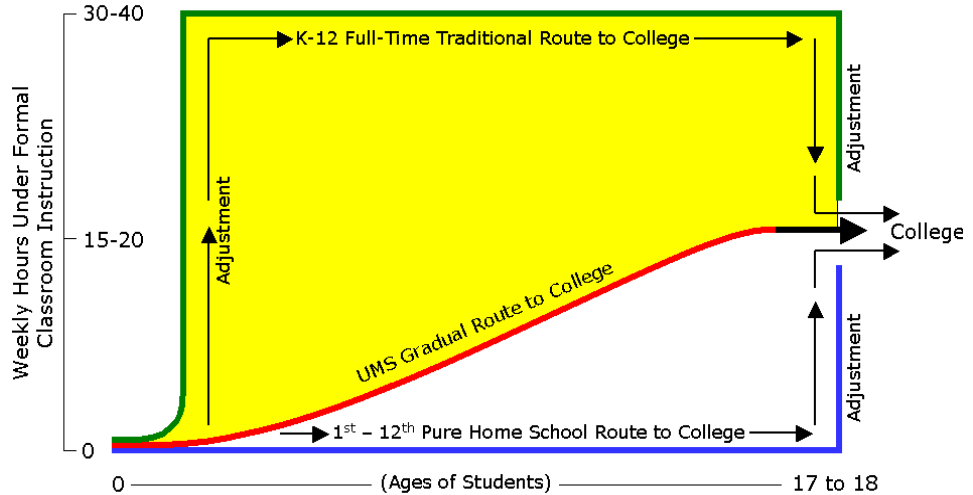
**Mr. & Mrs. Jody
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**The Fentress-
Brown Foundation**

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

yellow area represents the huge amount of time that children spend in the classroom attending a traditional school. Beginning at the tender age of just four or five, children immediately jump from almost no time away from parents to close to 40 hours per week away from the home. This continues until students reach college, where, ironically, “higher” education requires “lesser” amounts of class time.



Dr. Turner reminded us of how short the years with our children are. We must make the most of every opportunity (Colossians 4:5). The UMS approach so beautifully provides this valuable time and more deeply involves parents in the education, academically and spiritually, of their children.

Character Development

A University-Model School consists of three core components – academics, character development and student activities – each of which significantly involves parents in order to allow them the opportunity to fulfill the responsibilities given them in Deuteronomy 6 (see Page 1). The philosophy of a UMS affirms a genuine partnership with parents wherein the school takes the lead in the academic development of the students and supports the parents as they take the lead in the character development and spiritual growth of their children.

At Veritas Academy, our goal is to allow parents to be the primary influence in their children’s lives by giving them more hours each week to walk along side their

children the way God instructed. Yet we recognize the importance – in fact, the responsibility – of reinforcing this Christ-like character development while the children are at school.

Some believe that a separate Bible class should be mandated to achieve this goal. However, at Veritas Academy, we believe that God is evident in all things and that students should be trained in every subject to look for, recognize and appreciate God’s design. Therefore, a Biblical worldview integrating scripture, Christ-like character studies, etc. will be infused into every subject ensuring that students are exposed to and recognize God’s hand in all things.

In addition to instructing with a Biblical worldview and giving time back to families, Veritas Academy will also provide a character development curriculum aimed at training up Godly men and women. We consider the mission of the school to be both academic **and** spiritual and strive

to accomplish that mission by supporting parents in their God-ordained duty to lay a Biblical foundation so that their 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.

VeritasAcademy.net

All issues of the Veritas Academy newsletter are available in digital form on our website.

To help us be better stewards of our resources, please visit our website and join our mail list to receive future newsletters via email.

FAQs from our First Informational Meeting

At our first informational meeting on October 7, there were many questions asked by those in attendance. Below are just a couple of the more commonly posed queries. Please refer to the FAQ section of our website at VeritasAcademy.net for additional questions and answers.

What kind of curriculum will be used by Veritas Academy?

Each University-Model School chooses its own curricula. Veritas Academy has elected to employ the Classical approach, founded upon a Christian worldview. We have chosen this approach because of its emphasis on teaching children *how to think* and *how to make decisions* on their own.

Our curriculum committee – consisting of degreed educators (including a Master of Curriculum & Instruction) possessing both traditional and homeschool experience and holding certifications in the elementary and secondary levels – is evaluating curricula in each subject area that will best instruct our students within the Classical approach while also complementing the UMS approach by being parent-friendly.

Since the UMS model is a relatively new alternative to education, our student/parent committee will work to provide needed support through workshops, conferences, and detailed assignment sheets. Furthermore, faculty and staff will be available to provide additional assistance to parents who need it. While there will be some time required for parents to familiarize themselves with the curricula and weekly assignments, there will not be a significant amount of parental prep time needed as the lesson plans are prepared by the school's professional instructors. We will address the parents' responsibilities in greater detail at our November 9 informational meeting.

What is the fee for character development?

Supporting the efforts of parents in the development of Christ-like character in their children is one of the most important aspects of education at Veritas Academy. Because of this, the school will host seminars featuring guest speakers, present workshops, and also provide supplemental curricula and other resources for both faculty and parents to help develop quality character in the lives of these children.

The flat rate, per-family character development fee will be used to offset the costs associated with these opportunities. The Board of Trustees, the staff, and faculty of Veritas Academy will work diligently to keep the character development fee as low as possible.

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.

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Mission Statement

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.



Training hearts & minds for the glory of God

An Invitation ...

Please join us for our
2nd Informational Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2004

6:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

at

First Evangelical Free Church
in southwest Austin

Guest Speaker

Mr. Aaron Weast

Head Administrator

Faith Academy of Marble Falls
(a five-year-old university-model school)