

**VERITAS  
ACADEMY**

Opening  
Fall 2005  
Grades K - 5  
(then expanding)

# Veritas Academy

The Newsletter of  
Veritas Academy  
(Austin, Texas)

**Distinguishing  
Characteristics:**

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

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**Volume I, Issue V**

**May/June 2005**

## Our First Family Social!



In April, over 200 Veritas family members — including 68 students from 42 families — gathered together for the first time to meet one another, socialize and enjoy the picture-perfect weather God granted us that day. Picnicking on the grounds of the school's location on the First Evangelical Free Church campus, our children thoroughly enjoyed each other on the playgrounds, the sport courts and even high up in the oak trees!

As wonderful as the fellowship was, however, the highlight of the evening had to be the time of corporate prayer as all the parents gathered in a circle around our children, held hands, and prayed over them and the coming school year. Truly a seminal moment in the foundation of Veritas Academy.

### **Please make plans to join us for the next social on Tuesday, June 21st!**

With Veritas Academy now made up of twice as many families — and almost twice as many students — as attended the last social, our next social promises to be twice the fun! Families of registered students will soon be notified of additional details via email. Please make every effort to join us and begin establishing friendships between our children and our families.

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

### Summer Reading

Looking for some  
summer reading for  
yourself?

Learn more about the  
instructional approach  
Veritas Academy has  
adopted — classical  
with a Charlotte Mason  
influence — through  
these recommended  
books:

*The Well Trained Mind*  
by Jessie Wise & Susan  
Wise Bauer

*For the Children's Sake*  
by Susan Schaeffer  
Macaulay

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.

## Announcements

### New Course Offerings

A second section of First Grade core classes (Math 1, English 1, History 1, Science 1) has been added to accommodate continued demand!

Also, 6th period drama has been opened up to students in grades 1-6. The class will include presentation and public speaking skills, mini-productions, poetry recitations, and other fun activities designed to build confidence and creativity.

### School Calendar Change

The scheduled dates for Spring Break have been moved to make them corre-

spond with those of other schools in the Austin area.

Instead of the week of March 20, Spring Break is now scheduled for the week of March 13, 2006.

### Carpool

We are in the process of mapping the locations of our school families in order to promote community-building through carpooling and other activities that neighbors do.

If you are interested in carpooling, please contact fellow parent, Laura Gomez, by email at [dandlgomez@hotmail.com](mailto:dandlgomez@hotmail.com).

### Yahoo! Group

We've heard your calls requesting an electronic forum for the Veritas Academy families to communicate with one another, and — Yahoo! — we've responded.

A Yahoo! Group named *VeritasAcademy* has been established and is open to families of the school.

Please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VeritasAcademy> to sign up and start posting!

## Faculty Update

We are presently in the midst of interviewing teachers, administrative assistants, and head administrator candidates. What a joy it is to see professional educators grasping this unique and challenging academic model as excitedly as the Veritas Academy parents did! Praise God!

A handful of offers have been extended and more are expected in the coming weeks. And though the start of school is still three months away, our teachers are already taking the initiative in educating themselves on our model and contributing to the development of our curricular materials. What a blessing!

Please continue to pray for these wonderful people — those we have hired and those we have yet to meet. Pray with fervency for the particular qualities you desire in your children's teachers and for us to properly discern who these people are.

We expect to begin introducing our teachers and staff to you via brief biographies in the next issue of this newsletter.

## Summer Calendar of Events

<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
June 21 — Family Social	July 8, 11-16 — Teacher Training	Aug 2, 9 — Parent Workshop
June 30 — Book Sale & Panel Discussion	July 21 — Book Sale	Aug 18 — Parent/Student Orientation
		Aug 23 — First Day of School

Informational meetings and placement testing will be scheduled and conducted on an ad hoc basis throughout the summer, as needed.

## From the Heart — Second of an Occasional Series

### “The Father’s Rebuke” by Jef Fowler, Trustee

Not quite a year and a half ago, my wife and I were generally dissatisfied with our lives, particularly our family life. The sweet and peaceful spirit that had infused our home in prior years had somehow disappeared and been replaced with an atmosphere of pressure and busyness. And in the middle of it all was a father pouring fuel onto the fire. With my constant barking of orders to my young sons, I had become a drill sergeant ... right down to the iconic shouts of “Move it, move it, move it!” ala Sergeant Carter of *Gomer Pyle, USMC* fame.

After an 0600 reveille each weekday morning, an hour of chores and getting cleaned up, a fifteen minute breakfast, and a half-hour commute to school through congested rush hour traffic, my boys were dropped off to “begin” their day. Seven or eight hours later, they returned home for maybe an hour of free time before the homework whip started cracking for the next hour or two, followed by dinner, showers, reading and bed. One day down, another one coming. Quite a life, huh, especially for a 6- and 7-year-old? Welcome to the rat race, boys.

“What am I doing to these kids? When did I become this guy?” I thought. Instead of enjoying the desire of my heart, these precious children, I spent the bulk of each day away from them; and when we were together, we were often rushing through duties or exhausted from the day. An exasperating taskmaster was not the kind of father I had always aspired to be.

As my wife and I sought the Lord on this, He began to reveal some powerful insights to us. First, He showed my wife an image of a craftsman working with a mound of clay on a potter’s wheel, carefully molding the spinning clay into a beautiful vessel only to have a flaw develop, and the vessel begin to wobble and collapse before the potter pounded it into a heap again. It was clear that I was that potter, so deliberate and exacting in my craft and quick to pound out any perceived flaws. But God impressed upon me that *He* is the potter, that these boys are *His* pieces of clay, and that I am just a tool in His steady hand to be used in the molding of each child into the vessel that He has uniquely designed each to be.

As if that weren’t enough, He went on to reveal to me that I was focused on the training of my children’s minds, but that He was focused on their hearts. Ouch. Guilty again. It was true that I was focused on their academic training. Their mother and I had them in one of the finest private schools around — and a Christian one at that — but God’s imperative to me was that as a parent I, and not some third party, was responsible for the training of my children’s hearts. *I* was the one to be the steadily-applied tool in God’s hand, not the school to which I was committing my boys for the bulk of their waking hours each day and in which I was placing my trust for their education instead of in God, as a friend of mine had insightfully observed and shared with me.

To be the effective tool in my Father’s hand, I had to first let go of control and be at rest in His hand, and then be in sustained contact with the clay, my sons. To accomplish the latter, I realized that we had to make some changes so that my wife and I could be a greater part of our kid’s lives. In short, we desperately needed more *time* with our boys. With little trepidation we made the decision to begin home schooling. I then set out to find a longer term solution since we knew that by the time our boys became of junior high age, we would not be the best academic instructors for them. Furthermore, we desired for our children to be a part of a social fabric beyond their family and their church. We wanted for them to experience what it is to be a committed part of something bigger than themselves.

Again, God revealed. This time through the website of a school in Marble Falls that I had stumbled across. I was immediately struck by an educational model that truly partnered with parents instead of merely parroting such rhetoric. Here was an approach that not just welcomed, but demanded, the participation of parents, yielding the lead on issues of character development (i.e., the training of the heart) to the parents and retaining the lead on academics (i.e., the training of the mind). It all made such perfect sense.

So, we yielded to God, who immediately brought us together with a few other like-minded parents and the rest is, as they say, history. This past year of home schooling our boys has been a wonderful experience, both for them and for us. And though the unexpected startup of a school does not allow for an escape from busyness, just having our children with one or both of us throughout each day does afford those daily opportunities to pour into them both academic and spiritual truths.

I am forever grateful for my Father’s rebuke and the changes it is bringing about in my family. As Ephesians 6:4 succinctly states: *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

Parents, is the hectic pace you’ve established for your family exasperating your children? Does your schedule allow you the time each day to truly fulfill the Lord’s command of training and instructing your children in His ways by being with them? The time is short — make each day count! ■

VeritasAcademy.net

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

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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

### The Veritas Academy Coat of Arms

Coats of arms are symbolic insignia identifying families. At Veritas Academy, we designed our coat of arms to reflect the principles for which this particular “family” stands.

Near the top of the coat of arms is the helm, or helmet, representing both the school’s mascot — a defender of truth — and the helmet of salvation which unites this family of believers. Atop the helm is the crest: a crown symbolizing the life, righteousness, victory and glory promised to those who stand the test and persevere. When borne on the arms, the shield represents the defender. Ours is a shield of faith prominently featuring three elements:

- ◆ a lamp of learning, light, life and spirituality;
- ◆ an open book denoting revealed knowledge and the word of God; and
- ◆ a cross-handled sword, known as the crosslet fitchee, symbolizing the sword of the Spirit and standing for an unshakable faith.

The mantling that surrounds the helm and shield feature the primary colors of Veritas Academy:

- ◆ Azure — the color blue — for strength, truth and loyalty;
- ◆ Argent — the metal silver — representing peace and sincerity; and
- ◆ Sable — the color black — symbolizing constancy.

Anchoring the coat of arms is the family’s name. “Veritas Academy” derives from the Latin words *veritas*, meaning “truth,” and *academia*, meaning an institution for advanced education, or commonly known today as a private, college-preparatory school.