

**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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## Admissions Update

Through the recently ended Regular Admissions period, over 100 students have been accepted to Veritas Academy. We praise God for the overwhelming response! To accommodate the demand, we have added a second Kindergarten class. Class registration for these students is in process, and we will not know until early April which classes—if any—may be full. Please bear in mind that a number of our students will be attending part-time, so open seats are expected to exist in each grade level in spite of the high number of applicants and admitted students.

If you are interested in having your child(ren) attend Veritas, please apply as soon as possible as we have entered into an open—or ongoing—admissions period until the start of school. The admissions process begins with an application which can be obtained only by attending an Informational Meeting, the next of which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29th. As classes fill, wait lists will be created.

## Veritas Academy's New Home



We recently executed a two year lease for classroom and administrative space with First Evangelical Free Church (FEFC). Conveniently located just southwest of the intersection of MoPac and Hwy 290 in southwest Austin, FEFC has a stand-alone education building with gymnasium and playscape on a beautiful, oak-filled campus.

*Note: Please continue to direct all correspondence to our P.O. Box instead of FEFC's physical address.*

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

### **Spring Social!**

*For all families that have been admitted to Veritas Academy, please make plans to join us in the late afternoon on Tuesday, April 12th, for an informal social gathering to meet one another.*

*We will gather under the oaks at FEFC for a casual evening of food and fellowship as we begin to build a community among our families.*

*Please watch your email for additional details.*

*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.*

## **Teachers, Teachers, Teachers**

Having received a number of applications for teaching positions, along with the head Administrator position, we have commenced the interview process. Please join us in praying for favor and clear discernment so that we may attract and select exactly who God has called to join with us in the training of our children's hearts and minds.

Specifically, we are seeking men and women who possess the following attributes:

- ◆ A fully devoted heart for God.
- ◆ A love of children.
- ◆ A love of—and demonstrated capacity for—teaching.
- ◆ A mastery of a particular subject area of instruction.
- ◆ A bachelor's degree.
- ◆ An understanding and willing acceptance of the parents' role in the university-model of education.
- ◆ An appreciation of the classical approach to education.

For the lower grades, our desire is to have "self-contained" core classes, meaning that a 2nd grade class, for example, would have a single instructor for all of the core classes (i.e., language arts, math, history and science). Beginning in the latter grammar school grades or early middle school grades, our desire is to employ more specialized teachers—as we do currently with elective courses—beginning with the math and sciences.

Should you know of anyone possessing the above characteristics and desiring a Tuesday/Thursday teaching schedule, please contact our Faculty Director, Susan Nolley, at 697.0033 or [Susan@VeritasAcademy.net](mailto:Susan@VeritasAcademy.net).

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## **Core Curricula Choices**

To narrow the field of possible curriculum options for our core subjects, we evaluated each alternative against a formal set of criteria. For Veritas Academy, the chosen curriculum must:

- ◆ Support our standards of high academic excellence by being consistent with that of the classical approach.
- ◆ Support Charlotte Mason's philosophies by being experiential, or hands-on. The instruction must come alive and be more than just written words on a page.
- ◆ Be biblically based or designed so that Christian elements can be integrated.
- ◆ Be parent-friendly. This was a big consideration given our model of school, and it was especially important for the early grades since the parent will also be a co-instructor. The curriculum should be organized so that the parent will not have to invest a large amount of time in becoming an expert on that particular curriculum.

**Language Arts** — Our language arts program will integrate reading, composition, spelling and speaking in a meaningful way via a multi-sensory approach that combines all of the senses necessary for these activities. In the early grades, reading instruction will be phonetics based and will be taught in conjunction with handwriting and spelling. Once these basics have been introduced, the reader will quickly move into the reading and writing of quality literature. The rules of grammar will be taught and then integrated into writing as early as possible. Students will learn to compose by mimicking the writing of good authors.

Our choice for Language Arts curricula: *Spell to Write & Read* by Wanda SanSeri; *Shurley Grammar*; and *The Institute for Excellence in Writing*.

**Math** — The first four years of math lay the foundation for the high-level abstract thinking required by algebra, trigonometry and calculus that will be encountered in upper grades. In grammar school, the foundation will be established by teaching mathematical concepts on a concrete level, allowing the child to work problems out with real objects until the concept makes sense to him. Once the concept is mastered on a concrete level, the child will progress to mental arithmetic requiring abstract thinking.

We strongly believe that the memorization of math facts—addition, subtraction, multiplication and division—is essential in building a strong foundation and will expect this of each student. However, the study of mathematics is more than simply committing to memory a list of facts. It includes memorization, but it also encompasses learning the underlying concepts that are critical to problem solving. Our ultimate goal for math at Veritas Academy will be to produce students who understand mathematical concepts, who are able to apply this knowledge in real life applications, and who enjoy the study of math.

Our choice for Math curriculum and resources: *Singapore Math*; supplemental drills; and a variety of manipulatives including base ten blocks, counters, clocks, measurement tools, etc.

**History** — History at Veritas Academy will follow a four-year rotational cycle in which the student repeats a subject matter every four years, but studies it in a manner that corresponds to his age and stage of development. For example, the history/geography cycle begins with a study of the “Ancients” in first grade, and then continues through Medieval-early Renaissance, Late Renaissance-early modern, and Modern over the next three years. The first cycle occurs in the stage of grammar where the focus is on memorization and knowledge of facts. The cycle begins again in fifth grade and then again in ninth grade.

These cycles correspond to the appropriate stages: the stage of logic emphasizes logical, explanatory thinking, while the stage of rhetoric emphasizes understanding of ideas and persuasive expression. In the grammar stage of history, students will be briefly introduced to each period of history with attention given to the memorization of names, dates and places through fun memorization tactics. In the logic stage, the student will repeat the four-year cycle of the grammar years but will now begin seeking to find connections between events by using tools like time-lines, outlines and original sources to examine the motives of leaders, relationships between cultures and the application of morals to human action. **Art** and **music** are coordinated with history so that the student learns about social and cultural developments and how they affected works of art.

Our choice for History curricula and resources: *BiblioPlan*; *The Story of the World* by Susan Wise Bauer; *Usborne Book of World History*; *Kingfisher Illustrated History of the World*; *Victor Journey through the Bible*; and an array of age appropriate historical fiction and reference books including: *Growing up in Ancient Greece*, *Living in Roman Times*, *Who Built the Pyramids?*, and *The Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt*.

**Science** — The sciences follow a roughly corresponding cycle to the history periods. First graders, who are studying the “Ancients,” will learn about things that the ancients could see—animal life, the human body, and plants. They make collections, take nature walks and grow plants. Second graders collect facts about the earth and sky, a study designed to go along with the medieval-early Renaissance period, when Copernicus observed the heavens. Third graders work on basic chemistry as their history reading spans the period from 1600 to 1850, the years when the first great chemists lived. In fourth grade, basic physics is introduced as students study modern times.

The grammar-stage science is a time of discovery leading the student to the logic stage in the middle years when the young scientist digs below the surface of the discoveries made in the earlier grades. As the middle-school student progresses through the four-year cycle of biology, astronomy, chemistry and physics again, he begins to think more critically about doing science and begins to practice the scientific method himself through experimentation. He makes connections among the branches of science, between science and history, between the scientific method and the rules of logic. Once in the upper grades, the rhetoric student will once again pass through the same four-year cycle as he studies the principles and laws of each science. Following this plan, he will finish high school with a firm grasp of foundational scientific ideas.

Our choice for Science curricula and resources: *The Kingfisher First Animal Encyclopedia*; *The Kingfisher First Human Body Encyclopedia*; *Handbook of Nature Study* by Anna Botsford Comstock; *The Usborne First Encyclopedia of Space*; *Adventures with Atoms and Molecules*; *Physics Experiments for Children*; *More Mudpies to Magnets*; Nature Study Notebooks (individual student books where nature observations are recorded); and an array of age appropriate resource books and science kits.

**Electives** — We have yet to make decisions for the elective courses as we believe that the teachers hired in these areas will provide much expertise and guidance in these decisions.

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.

## 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*

**Upcoming Informational Meetings**

Please join us for our

**March Informational Meeting**

Tuesday, March 29, 2005

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

at

First Evangelical Free Church  
in southwest Austin

Guest Speaker

**Dr. John W. Turner, Jr.**

*Author of Character Driven College Preparation*

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Our **April Informational Meeting** is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2005, at the same time & place. Guest speaker to be announced.