

EIGHTH GRADE



Grade Level Capacity ~50
Class Sections 3
Students per Class 16-17
Student to Teacher Ratio 16:1

SCHOOL OF LOGIC OVERVIEW

Logic Stage

Students at this age are growing rapidly in their capacity for abstract thought. Being naturally inquisitive and analytical at this stage, students begin to pay attention to cause and effect, to organize knowledge into succinct patterns, and to recognize and investigate relationships between those patterns. They are eager to develop their reasoning and communication skills under the careful mentoring of both teachers and parents.

Parent Involvement

The parent serves primarily as a Guide for Dependent Study. Several academic courses at this level begin to cover subject matter that is unfamiliar to many parents and may require private tutoring from someone other than the parent. At the same time, the student is at a dependent age where disciplined study habits must be developed, not by parental force, but through positive encouragement and through the student's growing awareness of personal consequences.

School of Logic Traditions

Special School of Logic traditions include a monthly assembly, monthly Chapel, annual Amazing Race event, winter Daddy-Daughter Dance, and several other Student Life events.

Community Connections

Opportunities for School of Logic students to connect to the entire community include New Student Orientation, Fall Fest, Defender sporting events, MLK Service Day, and student clubs such as Book Club, Robotics Club, etc.

GOALS

Spiritual

During this very impressionable age, focus is placed on helping students answer the question, "Who am I?" With the help of the Bible and other relevant books, we guide students to understand their worth and identity in Christ as they search for meaning and significance. Students are encouraged to develop life-long habits of daily Bible reading, prayer, journaling, and memorizing Scripture.

Academic

In their final year in the School of Logic, Eighth Graders sharpen personal disciplines that will help them both in high school and in life. As they gradually become stewards of their own time and abilities, they will also work on deepening and refining their ability to express in written and oral form. Continued growth in these areas will prepare them for their Senior year when students present and defend a 20-minute thesis.

Social/Emotional

We desire to see our students love well. This means that they must love the right things. We focus on growing in them a love for five things. First and centrally, they must love God. Out of this flows a love of others. The final three are the love of truth, the love of learning, and the love of life.

CLASS TRIP & SPECIAL EVENT

Washington, D.C. Class Trip

This four-day visit to our nation's capital is the culmination of two years of study of American history and is a wonderful opportunity to make memories and build class unity prior to entering the School of Rhetoric.

Upper Logic Award Banquet and Dance

Special events at the end of the year include an academic awards ceremony, a banquet for eighth graders, and a dance for seventh and eighth graders that allows students to practice skills learned in etiquette and social dance classes.



CORE CURRICULUM

HISTORY	The Eighth Grade history course surveys United States history and politics from 1865 to the present. Students participate in Socratic dialogue, prepared seminars, systematic research, and composition assignments designed to deepen the students' understanding of select historical topics.
ENGLISH	English 8 immerses students in the richness of American literature while also continuing to develop grammar and vocabulary skills foundational for effective written and verbal communication. Literature selections loosely follow the span of modern history and may include <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , <i>Animal Farm</i> , <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> , various selections of poetry, and short stories.
MATH	Students are enrolled, based on placement testing results, in either Elementary Algebra or Algebra I. Elementary Algebra is a foundational algebra course that prepares students to take Algebra I in high school. Students who place into and successfully complete Algebra I in Eighth Grade earn a high school credit.
SCIENCE	Students take Quantitative Physics, a hands-on investigative approach to learn the foundation of the physical world. This course uses quantitative observations and mathematics to help students understand and describe the forces at work in the world around them. Topics of study include forces and motion, work and energy, electricity and magnetism, sound, light and waves.
LATIN	The study of Latin grammar in Latin IB provides outstanding support to English language concepts. Students reinforce their knowledge of English grammar terms, recognize English derivatives, and expand their English vocabulary while developing habits that help improve reading comprehension and writing in the English language. Successful completion of Latin IA in the Seventh Grade and IB in the Eighth Grade yields a high school credit for Latin.
FINE ARTS	All students are asked to participate in Fine Arts as part of their School of Logic education. In an effort to expose students to the various disciplines, Veritas has created a Fine Arts Track that consists of Visual Art, Music (choir, music appreciation or beginning percussion), Speech, and Theatre. School of Logic students may also elect to focus on a Musical offering throughout their 5th-8th grade years and grow from beginning band/choir courses to advanced offerings.
DISCIPLESHIP	At the heart of discipleship is relationship; therefore, discipleship classes are gender-specific with a reduced teacher-to-student ratio. In addition to developing solid relationships between students and the teacher, the goal of the discipleship class is to guide the students to understanding their worth and identity in Christ.

DAILY SCHEDULE 8:35AM – 3:45PM ON M-W-F AND 8:35AM – 1:30PM ON T-TH WITH SOME FLEXIBILITY

Students are on campus five days a week and attend four classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and two classes on Tuesday and Thursday. Classes meeting three times per week are 50 minutes and classes occurring twice a week are 90 minutes. Study labs are built into the schedule to allow Eighth Graders time to immediately apply what has been learned and to grow in the areas of time and effort management.

SCHOOL AT HOME DAY VARIES PER STUDENT

Eighth Graders are on campus five days a week, so they are not spending full days at home with parents as co-teachers. Depending on the individual student and his/her course load, some time working at home may be required after school hours, particularly on shorter school days like Tuesday and Thursday.

TECHNOLOGY

Eighth Graders take one semester of technology, instructing them in email usage, word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation skills. Technology is utilized as an enhancement to education, but never as a distraction from it.



SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION

In the Upper School of Logic, communication with classroom teachers is mostly via email between the student and teacher, and all students in grades 7 and up receive a school email address for this purpose. Parents may choose to be included in academic emails as well, but Logic students are encouraged to handle most of this communication on their own. A weekly School Memo is emailed to all parents, students, faculty, and staff to ensure everyone is aware of school-wide events and processes. Discipline or other classroom/school issues will be handled with the parent directly.