

TWELFTH GRADE



GOALS

Spiritual

In all of our School of Rhetoric courses, athletics, fine arts, and student life events, we aspire to see students know who they are in Christ and be willing and able to have an impact in any culture by embracing and exhibiting their faith. Through intentional discourse and thoughtful faith-integration into all core subjects, students grow in their knowledge and love of God. Their loves begin to be ordered as wisdom and virtue are cultivated. We want students to grow in personal responsibility, while resisting self-reliance, to possess a servant's heart, to engage in civil discourse, and to lead a joyous, courageous life of passion and purpose.

Academic

In a rapid review of all eras of history, students consider the foundations and movements of Western Civilization as they read the works of the greatest thinkers in history. The skills of good discussion that were built in the previous three grades are consistently employed here. The work of all prior years pays off as the student embodies "the good man speaking well" and presents his or her Senior 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.

TRADITIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Senior Thesis

Culminating many years of challenging academic effort and accomplishment, Veritas Academy Seniors face their final hurdle in the Senior Thesis capstone event in which each student presents a 20-minute memorized oral presentation on a topic they have researched for the entire year, followed by a 20-minute defense before a panel of judges.

House System

The Veritas Academy School of Rhetoric utilizes a house system, begun in English schools centuries ago. Our 9-12th graders are divided into four houses with students from all four grade levels in each house. The house system is an on-going competition within the school that builds community, breaks down cliques, provides every student an instant place of belonging, and is lots of fun! Houses compete in intramural sports and games on school days, earn points for correct uniform wear and helpfulness and participate in various activities as a group, all looking to win the House Cup on the last day of the school year.

Grade Level Capacity ~50

Class Sections 3

Students per Class 16-17

Student to Teacher Ratio 16:1

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC OVERVIEW

Rhetoric Stage

With minds full of knowledge and the ability to logically organize that knowledge into meaningful arguments, students in the rhetoric stage of classical education are prepared to focus on winsome and effective expression, both in written and spoken form.

Parent Involvement

The parent's role in the School of Rhetoric can be easily overlooked because the students are quite independent. Thoughtful dinner table conversations help students process what they are learning and provide opportunities for parents to influence the growth of wisdom and virtue in their children. Help with organization and time management are also important as students develop these life skills.

School of Rhetoric Traditions

Special School of Rhetoric traditions include a weekly assembly, monthly Chapel, week-long celebration and dance for Homecoming, Bonhoeffer, Stag dance, School of Rhetoric retreat, Defender Pretender, Prom, and weekly intramural/ house competitions.

Community Connections

Opportunities for School of Rhetoric students to connect to the entire community include New Student Orientation, Fall Fest, Daddy-Daughter Dance, and more. Additionally, there are numerous student clubs within the School of Rhetoric, providing ample opportunities for students to connect with one another.



CORE CURRICULUM

GOVERNMENT/ ECONOMICS	This course is different from any modern-day government course as it starts at the beginning of Western Civilization, and students read the greatest thinkers on government throughout the ages while growing to understand the history and philosophy that undergirds our modern form of government. The class ends with a practical look at economics.
ENGLISH / RHETORIC	The final installment of English includes many great works from the recent past. Students also write their Senior Thesis, which pulls together all of the skills of rhetoric they have learned over the years. Students research, form an arguable thesis, structure a well-reasoned and well-researched argument, add style, consider the logical, ethical, and emotional appeal in their writing, present their argument in a 20-minute speech, and then defend this argument while thinking on their feet before a panel of experts.
MATH	Twelfth Grade students have options for mathematics at this stage including AP Statistics, AP Calculus, Functions, Statistics & Trigonometry, and Pre-Calculus. Any course selected by the students will have a greater emphasis upon the thought processes, perseverance, and strategies required to solve hard problems. Some students will have finished their math requirements and can focus on other subjects if they desire to do so.
SCIENCE	A variety of science courses are offered at the upper levels. All courses will have a high level laboratory component that emphasizes quality scientific writing in the form of formal lab reports. Options include AP Physics, Molecular Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Astronomy, and Marine Biology. Some students will have finished their science requirements and can focus on other subjects if they desire to do so.
FOREIGN LANGUAGES	All students must take at least one year of Latin, then may choose to continue their Latin studies or pursue studies in Spanish or American Sign Language. There is an emphasis on being immersed in the language, so before they know it, students will find themselves in a course conducted entirely in the foreign language. Some students will have finished their foreign language requirements and can focus on other subjects if they desire to do so.
LEADERSHIP	Senior Leadership serves as the capstone leadership class and is focused on graduating students who are connected to their story and the story of their faith, their family, our school, the Austin community, and the world around them, so that they understand who God created them to be, are confident in His calling on their life, know they can rely on the love and support of the school community they are leaving behind, and possess the ability to look beyond themselves to lead and love those around them in any environment. Through the discussion of open-ended questions that challenge students to examine why they believe what they believe, along with intentional leadership training and opportunities to meet with and interview community leaders, we hope students leave this seminar a confident and caring leader, rooted in Christ.
ELECTIVES	Students are offered a wide variety of elective choices, designed to expose them to potential future occupations or hobbies to be enjoyed. Examples are Computer Science, Archery, Painting, Cooking, Vocal Ensemble, Forensic Science, Band, and Video Production.

DAILY SCHEDULE 8:55AM – 3:55PM Students are on campus five days a week 8:55am-3:55pm with some classes meeting twice a week for 90 minutes and others meeting three days a week for 60 minutes each, thus following a true university schedule. Though they are on campus five days per week, students are only in class about 20-hours per week giving them a lot of time on campus to complete homework.

SCHOOL AT HOME VARIES PER STUDENT

School of Rhetoric students are on campus five days a week, so they are not spending time at home with parents as co-teachers. Depending on the individual student and his/her course load, some time working at home will be required after school hours.

ACADEMIC AND COLLEGE ADVISING

Our advising staff meets individually with each family and offers multiple training events throughout the school year to guide students through the selection of courses as well as college and career planning. The advising team remains updated and current on the latest trends related to college admissions.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is utilized as an enhancement to education, but never as a distraction from it. Students are provided the skills necessary for success in this technology saturated world without putting technology at the center of education.

SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION

Communication with classroom teachers is mostly via email between the student and teacher, and all School of Rhetoric students receive a school email address for this purpose. Parents may choose to be included in academic emails as well, but Rhetoric students are expected 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.