

VERITAS VALIANT AWARD

~ PREAMBLE ~

In addition to Veritas Academy's recognitions for the good man speaking well—our *Senior Thesis Laureate*—and the most exemplary scholars—our *Valedictorian & Salutatorian*—we also recognize one who leaves behind a legacy of leading with the heart in the betterment of self and others—our *Veritas Valiant*.

As educators, parents, and mentors, it is incumbent upon us to challenge each young person entrusted to our care to focus on—and cultivate mastery over—the only three things in this world which they, and they alone, completely control: their attitude, their effort, and their tongue.

Their ATTITUDE determines the joy and satisfaction they find in life, and it defines—and, especially, limits—their possibilities. The cynic never has much potential.

Their EFFORT determines where they will reside within that realm of possibilities. Ambition, or perhaps more accurately, *desire*, is the fuel of the engine of effort. Either selfish desire or noble ambition will drive effort, though the latter more broadly and sustainably. But regardless the motive—noble or otherwise—desire without effort is without impact.

And, finally, their TONGUE has the power to undo it all. It's the match that most of us use to destroy in an instant what we have spent countless hours building.

In many ways, the Veritas Valiant award is simply a codification of the *attitudes* and *efforts*—and their underlying desires—along with the *words* behind a life that produces meaningful substance, influence, and fulfillment. This award recognizes a person whose life well lived commands the respect and appreciation of those around him. It's for the broadly influential person who in his or her time at Veritas had the heart and ability to bring out the best in others while challenging all to become even better, continuing a legacy of sacrificial servant-leadership at the academy.

~ VERITAS VALIANTS ~

MMXX	BRIGGS ELLIOTT ELLYSON	MMXIX	ELISE CAROLINE YELLITZ
MMXVIII	EMMELIA MEGHAN GRACE KRONE	MMXVII	JOHN BURK MERRYMAN
MMXVI	MITCHELL THOMAS ELEQUIN	MMXV	HOPE MICHELLE HARROD
MMXIV	CALEB LANCASTER FOWLER	MMXIII	SHEEVA JASMIN SHAHINFAR
MMXII	RACHEL MARY BERGMANN & NATHAN SCOTT ELEQUIN		



Veritas Valiant

~ CREED ~

The Veritas Valiant Award, the academy's highest honor, is meant to acknowledge a graduating senior whose life is marked not just by intellect and accomplishment, but also by effective leadership, a spirit of excellence, and personal virtue.

The award is conferred upon one who possesses and pursues the aspirational, noble qualities we desire to see embodied in a person of whom others would remark, "Now, there's a Veritas Man/Woman."

That ideal is...

- ◆ *the good man speaking well;*
- ◆ *the courageous defender who rises above his fear to uphold Truth and protect the vulnerable;*
- ◆ *the selfless, servant-leader — prepared, assured, and poised;*
- ◆ *the tenacious competitor — gracious in victory, resilient in defeat;*
- ◆ *the contagiously joyful, hopeful, positive encourager of others;*
- ◆ *the loyal, honorable, reliable man of constant character;*
- ◆ *the curiously attentive observer and industrious doer — propelled by his own initiative, tempered by his good judgment;*
- ◆ *the passionately purposeful, ambitious, adventurous spirit — fully alive and engaged;*
- ◆ *the wise, well-read, life-long learner — ordered in reason and desires, delighting in wonder;*
- ◆ *the compassionate, kind and generous helper of the hurting;*
- ◆ *the irrepressible visionary — informed of the past, mindful of the future, master of the moment in pursuit of his calling;*
- ◆ *the daring dreamer and maker of mistakes who humbly makes right those mistakes — risking failure, owning error, diligently repairing the damage;*
- ◆ *the patient, sincere listener — discerner of the heart and intents of others;*
- ◆ *the witty, inquisitive, contemplative soul, appreciative of silence & solitude;*
- ◆ *the champion of justice, but abounding in grace and mercy;*
- ◆ *the lover of all that is good, true and beautiful, drinking deeply of it;*
- ◆ *the thankful, grateful child of God and winsome witness of Christ, in word and in deed — a man after God's own heart, faithful friend of the Almighty.*

Our Valiant Award designee is a worthy ambassador for the institution, one we are proud to bear the imprimatur of Veritas Academy.