

Veritas Valiant Award

Veritas Academy | Austin, Texas | Est. MMV

– 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 that 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 creed 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 –

MMXXI Jared Carson Fuller

MMXX Briggs Elliott Ellyson

MMXXIX 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.

The Ordered Loves of a Veritas Valiant

LOVES GOD	LOVES OTHERS	LOVES TRUTH	LOVES LEARNING	LOVES LIFE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Lover of all that is good, True, and beautiful, drinking deeply of it</i> ◆ <i>Humble, thankful, grateful child of God</i> ◆ <i>A man after God's own heart, friend of the Almighty</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Protector of the vulnerable</i> ◆ <i>Selfless, servant-leader—prepared, assured and poised</i> ◆ <i>Contagiously joyful, hopeful, positive encourager of others</i> ◆ <i>Compassionate, kind and generous helper of the hurting</i> ◆ <i>A patient, sincere listener—discerner of the heart and intents of others</i> ◆ <i>Winsome witness of Christ, in word and in deed</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Courageous defender who rises above his fears to uphold Truth</i> ◆ <i>Loyal, honorable, reliable man of constant character</i> ◆ <i>Champion of justice, but abounding in grace and mercy</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Attentive observer and industrious doer, propelled by his own initiative</i> ◆ <i>Wise, well-read, life-long learner—ordered in reason and desires, delighting in wonder</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Witty, inquisitive, contemplative soul, appreciative of silence and solitude</i> ◆ <i>Passionately purposeful, ambitious, adventurous spirit—fully alive & engaged</i> ◆ <i>Tenacious competitor—gracious in victory; resilient in defeat</i> ◆ <i>Irrepressible visionary— informed of the past, mindful of the future, master of the moment in pursuit of his calling</i>

These ordered loves reflect each of the noble qualities described in the Veritas Valiant, the academy's highest honor conferred annually upon a graduating senior whose life is marked not just by intellect and accomplishment, but also by excellence and virtue. These are the aspirational qualities we desire to see embodied in every Veritas man or woman.