

## Veritas Academy Philosophy of Education

*“The end then of learning is to repair the ruins of our first parents by regaining to know God aright, and out of that knowledge to love him, to imitate him, to be like him, as we may the nearest by possessing our souls of true virtue, which being united to the heavenly grace of faith makes up the highest perfection.” ~John Milton*

### I. A Classical Education

#### a. Classical Method

- i. **The Trivium** - Veritas Academy employs the time-tested medieval method of the trivium, instructing its students in the three stages of **Grammar** (Grades K-6), **Logic** (Grades 7-9), and **Rhetoric** (Grades 10-12). The later stages build upon the earlier, creating a student who possesses three essential academic qualities: knowledge of the facts and the basic building blocks of learning, the ability to think clearly and critically about claims, ideas, and arguments, and the art of winsome communication—beautifully expressing what we know to be true.
- ii. **Integrated** - Veritas Academy believes that all knowledge is connected and that all truth is intricately interwoven, bound together not by human intellect but rather by the person of Jesus Christ and His Word (sacred Scripture). Subjects are taught as an interconnected whole.
- iii. **Structured** - Veritas Academy’s approach to education is intentional, definable, methodical, and repeatable. Moreover, we are constantly considering and reconsidering how our educational methods might best achieve the mission of our school—to cultivate loving, serving, thinking students.
- iv. **Truth-Centered** - Veritas Academy believes that absolute truth exists. Despite humanities’ fallen condition, we believe that truth is knowable, and that in knowing it we learn more about God, His world, and ourselves.

#### b. Classical Material

- i. **Consequential** - Veritas Academy believes that the past is alive with meaning and has much to teach us today. We do not intentionally exclude modern or current literature, but our aim is to read books and authors that have had a great impact on civilization and thus provide the best background for engaging the problems of the present.



- ii. **Relevant** - Veritas Academy's curriculum, activities, and programs are selected and designed such that they are applicable and relevant to today's world and culture. They are not selected because they are old or because they are new. Likewise, they are not selected because we agree with them or disagree with them. Rather, they are selected because they have something significant and meaningful to teach us and do so in a manner best suited to meet the objectives of our educational philosophy.
- iii. **"The Great Conversation"** - Veritas Academy engages its students in the great conversation of western civilization that begins with antiquity and continues today. The great conversation engages the biggest questions, including topics like God, love, humanity, peace, war, etc. Veritas endeavors to prepare its students to enter into this conversation in an intentionally Christian and richly informed manner.

## II. A Christian Education

### a. Christ-Centered

- i. **Divine Image** - Veritas Academy believes that all people are created in the image of God.
- ii. **Wisdom** - Veritas Academy seeks to instill *knowledge* in its students, so that they can grow to be high-achieving, impactful, successful individuals. The school also aims to instill *wisdom*, which will enable students to grow in their trust in Christ as their Lord and apply their knowledge in God-honoring, humble, and beneficial ways.
- iii. **Service-Oriented** - Veritas Academy seeks to instill in its students a desire and ability to serve, love, and care for others in selfless, Christ-like ways.

### b. Life-Enriching

- i. **Holistic** - Veritas Academy teaches to the whole student—body, soul, and mind. It seeks to educate its students so that they can live full, rich, and joyful lives. In other words, the school aims not only to teach students *what to do* but also *how to be*.

- ii. **Individually Focused** - Veritas Academy does not teach at the pace of the slowest child in the classroom, nor does it teach at the pace of the fastest child in the classroom. Rather, it aims to advance each student as rigorously as possible while individually providing support so that each might best strive toward excellence.
- iii. **Community-Oriented** - Education, like the Christian life, is a communal endeavor, not an individual one. Students help each other grow by sharing, debating, and engaging with each other about ideas. Veritas Academy seeks to foster and enrich this dialogue.
- iv. ***In Loco Parentis*** - Veritas Academy believes that its role is to be *in loco parentis*, “in the place of the parent.” This means that parents are responsible to educate their children in the Lord. Educators must be the delegates of the parents, assisting them in the education of their children but never usurping their God-given parental prerogative and responsibility.