



Rhetoric Curriculum Overview

The Rhetoric stage is a time of moving deeper into all subjects. Logic is replaced by the study of formal rhetoric, apologetics, and composition. Math moves deeper into the study of trigonometry and calculus (most graduates leave Veritas with more than a year of calculus). In science classes, such as biology, chemistry, and physics, students explore how the world works. Students also have the opportunity to deepen their studies in a classical language or modern foreign language.

Omnibus (the study of the “Great Books”) moves through the most powerful and challenging books ever written. Students read Homer, Sophocles, Aeschylus, Euripides, Thucydides, Livy, Cicero, and Tacitus. They explore Beowulf, Aquinas, Dante, Luther, and Calvin. They dive into Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Austen, Camus, and even Nietzsche. Many of these authors were not faithful believers. Students, however, are prepared to read these works critically (through their biblical lens), standing against the authors’ false arguments and valuing the truth they discover. They work on telling others what these great writers are saying and why it has value for our lives.

Along with the “Great Books,” we enable students to explore areas of interest, which helps them identify what they might do in college and/or a future career. We encourage our students to take college classes and pursue internships with local businesses in order to understand how God has gifted them. We work hard to provide an education that affirms the great maxim of Augustine: “Love God and do as you please.” The culmination of this education should result in men and women giving their lives and their talents to God’s service.

Here are some of the books our teachers use in the Rhetoric stage: Veritas Press’s Omnibus IV, V, and VI, Lucille Paine’s *The Lively Art of Writing*, Scott Forester’s *Algebra II and Trigonometry*, Cutnell and Johnson’s *Physics*. Students complete an intensive study of the entire Bible and also read the following: *The Iliad*, *The Divine Comedy*, *Paradise Lost*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Stranger*, *Anna Karenina*, *Notes from the Underground*, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, *Emma*, and many others.

Subject Overview

Here is some of what students learn in the Rhetoric stage at Veritas Academy:

- Omnibus: Our study of the Great Books continues at the core of studies. Reading *The Divine Comedy*, students trek along with Dante, Virgil, and Beatrice from hell to heaven as they consider justice, mercy, and “the Love that moves the sun and other stars.” They grapple with villains like Ahab, Marx, and Nietzsche. They applaud heroes like Augustine, Calvin, and Aeneas.
- Science: Students complete studies in Chemistry, Physics, and other challenging electives.
- Language studies: Students study a modern foreign language, often Spanish, or continuing their studies in a classical language (Latin) working on deeper translation work.
- Math: Veritas has a robust offering. Most students continue on through at least Calculus I. More than half of our graduates have completed Calculus II by the time they leave Veritas Academy. We offer multiple courses in Algebra and Probability and Statistics. We want students to have computational competence while also seeing the beauty and wonder of mathematics.
- Electives: Students also take more electives during these years. This might mean an elective in drama, genetics, or the rhetoric of film.
- Fine Arts: Students have an opportunity to be involved in art and music during school hours and during after school extracurricular activities.
- Rhetoric: Students study how to speak, how to write, and how to argue for the Christian faith in courses on Rhetoric, Junior Thesis, Apologetics, and Senior Thesis.