



# Veritas Classical Academy

*News – April/May 2006*

## Staff Openings for 2006-2007

There are quite a few staff openings for next fall. This is exciting news as we expect our enrollment to increase and the need for several grades to add a second class.

**The staff openings we anticipate for next year are:**

- 1 teacher for each grade, K-5 (full day Tues./Thurs.)
- 1 Latin teacher (full day Tues./Thurs.)
- 1 Middle School Math teacher (2 hours Tues./Thurs.)
- 1 Middle School Science teacher (1.5 hours Friday mornings)
- 1 Art Appreciation teacher (1.5 hours Friday mornings/1 semester)
- 1 Music Appreciation teacher (1.5 hours Friday mornings/1 semester)
- 1 Lunch and Recess Coordinator (2.5 hours Tues./Thurs.)

Prospective applicants should refer to the 'Contact' tab on the website ([www.veritasnorman.org](http://www.veritasnorman.org)) for information on how to apply. The application deadline for first-round interviews is June 1.

## Student Admissions

The Veritas Board continues to accept application for new student enrollment through June 1, 2006. Parents are encouraged to submit their child's application as soon as possible to ensure a spot in the class. Application requirements, tuition information, and deadlines can be found on our website.

Our last scheduled Information Session for the spring will be held on Thursday, May 11, at Trinity Baptist Church from 7:00-8:30pm. Interested families are encouraged to come. Families planning to enroll at VCA are required to attend and Information Session as part of the admissions requirements.

## Upcoming Dates

**March 20- June 1-** Accepting new student and teacher applications. Application procedures and information may be found on our website under the 'Admissions' tab for students and the 'Contact' tab for teachers.

**April 27 -** Veritas 2nd Annual Science Fair at Trinity Baptist Church in the Fellowship Hall. Projects from students, grades 3-7, will be open for viewing by family and friends from 6:45-8:00pm with awards being presented from 7:00-7:30pm.

**May 8-** Open Board Meeting at 7pm in the Trinity Music Room. Please inform Rebecca if you have something you would like to bring up at the meeting.

**May 11-** Information Session from 7:00-8:30pm at Trinity Baptist Church in the Music Room. Childcare is available upon request for \$5 per child.

**May 20-** Admission Testing for New Student Applicants at Trinity Baptist from 9am-12noon. Please RSVP to Rebecca at 850-5309. Test cost is \$50 per student.

**May 25-** Last Day of School and Picnic

## School Needs

- Office computer (preferably a laptop)
- Color printer
- 1-2 overhead projectors
- frequent flyer miles
- \$15,000 for summer teacher training, teacher curriculum materials and development
- small bus/large van to transport children to park
- additional PE/recess equipment

If you are interested in making a donation or giving any of these items to the school, please contact Rebecca at 850-5309.

## State of the Union

As we approach the last month of the spring semester, it seems like a good time for a summary report on how we are doing as a school and what we are expecting for next year.

As I write this report, students at Veritas are taking **standardized achievement tests**. I look forward to providing a detailed report on the performance of the school in about 6 weeks. Although some parents have expressed concerns about doing this testing every year in all grades, we feel that – especially in the early stages of our school’s growth – the information provided by these tests is important, so we plan to continue testing in every grade for the foreseeable future. However, we are likely to move to a shorter version of the Iowa next year for grades K-2, as the full test battery is especially tiresome for students in these lower grades. This shorter test battery will still cover all of the core subjects, which are the focus of the curriculum in K-2 anyway. Incidentally, feedback from last year’s test results led us to adopt several small modifications to our curriculum this year, and we expect to make similar adjustments in the years to come as we refine and hone our approach to educating students with a classical and Christian model.

One of the not-so-small curricular changes for next year involves our switching to a **Spalding-based phonics program**. We are still deciding upon the exact format but will provide more information in PIFs as soon as possible. Many hours of investigation and conversations with other educators have gone into this decision to change to Spalding, and we are confident that the change will represent a valuable improvement to our already strong curriculum. Other aspects of the Veritas curriculum are also under consideration for modifications in the near future, particularly as we continue to develop the details of the middle school (Logic stage) and upper school (Rhetoric stage) scope and sequence. To use a common metaphor of Reagan-era economics, development in these upper grades will result in a trickle-down effect on the lower grades, although such effects are not likely to be as major as the change in the phonics curriculum. We are particularly excited about the future of our writing program under

the direction of Mr. Todd Wedel, which could well prove to be one of the strongest elements of a Veritas education in the years to come.

At the administrative level, the board is actively considering changes to policies and procedures for next year, including the addition of **open board meetings** once a quarter (starting at the end of the current semester). This change will provide a venue in which Veritas families can easily bring concerns and questions to the board for discussion. Although we always have desired feedback from our families, we acknowledge that there are many ways in which we could (and should) have communicated more clearly with parents about our policies and our desire for open dialogue about the day-to-day operations of the school. Veritas is a very young organization, and we have much to learn, but we consider our parents and teachers our most valuable resource as we strive to develop from infancy to maturity as a school committed to “cultivating minds and hearts for the glory of Christ.” **The first open board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8 at 7pm in the Trinity Music Room. Please inform Rebecca if you have something you would like to bring up at the meeting.**

Looking forward to next year, we expect to reach approximately 90 students enrolled in grades K through 8. Several teachers will be leaving us due to their growing families, and we will miss them sorely. One thing this means for Veritas is that we will be **hiring a number of new teachers** for the fall, both to replace those who are taking a leave from the faculty and to expand the faculty in important ways as we add a grade level and enhance our academic offerings. We are excited about what these changes will bring to our school, despite the growing pains involved (I almost wrote “birth pains,” but then thought better of it out of respect for Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Gray). Julie Serven will serve as Acting Principal again next year as we continue to raise money toward a more permanent headmaster/principal in the future.

We hope you are as pleased as we are with the successes we have witnessed this year and with the ways in which our school is growing and developing. We respect the pioneering spirit with which families at Veritas have approached this unique and challenging endeavor, and we look forward to

continuing to walk beside all of you in the coming years as you respond to God's charge to see to the education of your children.

-By Ryan Brown, PhD  
Veritas Board Member