

Veritas Classical Academy

News – August 2005

Back to School

We are very excited to start our second year on Tuesday, August 23. Our enrollment has increased to 55 students and we are anticipating a wonderful year. We have added several events to our school calendar and extended our school day until 3:15pm.

We have also added two new staff members; Lorie Gray will teach our combined 3rd and 4th grade class and Josh Spears will teach a variety of middle school subjects as well as serve as Activities Coordinator. In addition to our new faculty, Julie Serven, a Veritas Board Member, will serve as Acting Head Master for the 2005-2006 school year.

ACCS Conference in Memphis

This June, three faculty members from Veritas had the opportunity to attend the Association of Classical Christian Schools conference in Memphis, TN. To see over a thousand Christian educators and administrators gathered together was a powerful reminder of the reality of God's work in education, a needed encouragement that not only has God not left us without Himself, He also has not left us without fellow workers.

Rather than try to give any comprehensive overview of the conference, I thought I would relate insights from two especially striking sessions.

In a session on integrating drama into the classical curriculum (which, among other things, motivated me to start such a program),

the speaker remarked, "I have come to believe that education is a process of continual repentance." He went on to say that as educators, we often leap in to "fix" a problem when what is most needed is for a student to reach the end of themselves and recognize that they can neither learn nor do anything apart from God's grace. This is not to say that we should leave students to flounder without hope. Rather, the hope is something made sensible only in view of the need. For me, this was an encouragement as a teacher—I must reach the end of myself and realize that all my efforts, all my work, are ultimately insufficient. My strength, my hope, must be in Christ, and it is in my weakness that His strength will be shown to my students.

Another session covered the use of storytelling in grammar school. The speaker motivated us to remember that in grammar school, one of the primary means of learning and one of the most easily accessible is narrative. He related how he used the short story "The Cannon" by Victor Hugo to make real to his students the dangers and perils of Napoleonic warfare, how he used the Edgar Allen Poe story "The Tell-Tale Heart" in bible to make concrete the realities of guilt, how he created narratives around the significant facts of a historical period that he wanted his students to remember. I left the session excited again about teaching and engaging with students, especially excited to remember that it is through stories that *all of us* learn—the rich stories of the bible; the stories of the histories of the successes and failings of man; the stories of myth and legend, folklore and literature; the stories of science and discoveries.

Many other sessions were striking in their impact and challenging in their scope. Indeed, it was with a mix of joy and despair that I left the conference—joy at the possibilities and lessons, despair at my inability to implement all that I'd learned. This, though, was a reminder of why it is a joy to teach at Veritas. The emphasis is not upon me, nor my ability. It is my responsibility to take what I have learned and strive to make it real in the classroom, but it does not rely upon me; it relies upon God working through the partnering of parents and teachers and His sovereign means to bring about His glory. And that is a cause for joy.

-Todd Wedel, 6-7th grade teacher

Upcoming Dates

August 15th- Parent Orientation from 6:30-8:30pm at Trinity Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

August 18th- 'Meet your Teacher' from 10:00am-12:00pm and Parent Orientation from 6:30-8:30pm at Trinity Baptist Church.

August 19th- 'Meet your Teacher' from 10:00am-12:00pm.

August 23rd- First Day of School

Please visit our website www.veritasnorman.org for more information about all of these events, or call Rebecca at 850-5309.