

Veritas Classical Academy

News – October 2004

What have you enjoyed the most so far about teaching at Veritas?

“I would say that I love reminding the children that God gave them a healthy and strong mind with the ability to think and learn in order to glorify Him. God has been so good to give me thoughts about His truth in the middle of a lesson. In Grammar I was reminded about our unique ability to communicate, not only with each other, but with the God who created us.” - Tiffany Clark, 2nd-3rd Grade Teacher

What aspect of the curriculum do you enjoy the most (subject or methodology)?

“I really love teaching Latin and English. It is exciting to see the kids really catch on in Latin and learn to express themselves and draw connections with English. In English, it is a joy to work with the kids at a level where they are developing their skills instead of remediating things that should have been taught earlier in school. They are expressive and eager to create and interact. That makes all subjects enjoyable, but Latin and English are definitely the highlights of my day.”
- Todd Wedel, 5th-6th Grade Teacher

What do you think of Veritas so far?

“The work is harder but I still like it a lot. I have learned more at school 2 days a week and 2 days of home school than 5 days at [my school last year].”
-Lexi Williams, 4th grade

What has been the biggest challenge for you this year?

“Having a deadline makes me wacky! We cannot declare school is closed because Mommy is tired or she has errands to run. It has to be done. I dislike the lack of flexibility, but the children are gaining a tremendous sense of accomplishment from seeing a project started and finished within a certain amount of time.”
- Donna Lewis, parent of K, 2nd, 4th, and 6th grade students at Veritas

“So far the biggest challenge has been trying to work with 2 children's different assignments while also

teaching” my 3 year old who wants to do school work as well.” - Lori Abernethy, parent of a Kindergarten and 1st grader

Prayer Requests

Now that the school is up and running, we have to begin planning for next year (can you believe it?). Please pray for wisdom in planning. We also need to get back to our fundraising efforts. If you have suggestions that might help us, please let us know!

Also, pray for our upcoming information session for interested families, Nov. 11th at 7pm at Curt and Karla Stafford's house.

Friday Class Update

We are in the process of planning our Friday Classes for the Spring semester. We hope to make some revisions to the courses we offer, as well as bring down the cost and expand payment options. If you have feedback that would be helpful to our planning, please contact Rebecca Wedel.

The Spring Class descriptions and schedule will be posted on our website by early November. Please consider enrolling your child and inviting a friend to come along.

Getting to Know Your Teachers and Staff

Lori Martin is our 4th grade teacher. Lori has a Master's in Mathematics and has been teaching high school math and coaching basketball for the past several years. She has been awarded many honors for her teaching, including a prestigious Presidential award for teaching excellence in mathematics and science. Lori is married to Donnie Martin, who is also a teacher and coach, and they have three daughters.

Todd Wedel teaches our combined 5th and 6th grade class. Todd has a Master's in English Composition and Rhetoric from OU. Currently he is also an adjunct professor for the Human Relations Department at OU. Todd is a gifted writer and hopes to publish his work someday. Todd and Rebecca married in June.

Rebecca Wedel is the Veritas Office Administrator. She is originally from Texas and lived in Austin prior to marrying Todd. In Austin, Rebecca worked for Campus Crusade for Christ and most recently as a teaching assistant in an autism special education class. Rebecca is gifted administratively and has a deep love for children. We are thankful for her ability to keep things running smoothly.

Upcoming Dates

October 19- No Classes- Teacher/Parent Conferences

October 23- Veritas Fall Picnic

(For current students, staff and families)

The picnic will begin at 4:30pm at the home of Curt and Karla Stafford (1736 Byrant Circle).

November 11- Information Session

This meeting is for families interested in learning more about Veritas. Invite a neighbor or friend to come with you! Send us names and addresses for invitations, too.

November 16- Individual and Class Pictures

November 22- Application deadline for Spring 2005 mid-year enrollment

December 17- Deadline to sign-up for Spring Friday Classes

Please visit our website www.veritasnorman.org for more information about all of these activities.

Review of *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview* by Albert M. Wolters. Part 2
(Written by Todd Wedel, Veritas 5th-6th grade teacher)

As Wolters shows, the call of God in Christ to us is first to recognize and proclaim the inherent goodness in what was created. Understanding God's good purposes, we can then seek to regain and restore all areas of life marred by sin to God's original designs. This message of our mission is the call of Christian freedom. We are freed to recognize, for example, that we are mortal, that our bodies are fallible. Yet this bodily state is the effect of the fall, not of the original creative act. We are free, then, to seek to use what God has graciously given—our intellects, insights, creativity, and

strength of will and body—to counteract the pain of physical ailments and to extend life. It is only within a biblical worldview that these actions become meaningful. It is only with such a vision that we can understand what boundaries God has placed upon us to be exercised as His instruments in such endeavors.

And it is only with such a vision that we can understand that a simple knowledge of Scripture is not sufficient for such endeavors—the Bible does not claim to be a book about medicine, or psychology, or literature. It is God's revelation of Himself and His will. We are freed, then, by having a biblical worldview, to seek the knowledge to exercise His revealed will in whatever He has called us to pursue.

For, it must be noted, being good stewards involves moving forward, being productive; to be static is to fulfill the role of the wicked steward, who, it is true, did not lose his master's talents, but nor did he make anything of them. Similarly, our job is not to be conservative in the sense of remaining static or maintaining a status quo. God is not about partial efforts or results. Just as Christ has redeemed everything to Himself, so we must strive to see that vision fully realized in all areas of life.

The overarching theme of this book, which is a reflection of the overarching theme of the Bible, is that “‘grace restores nature’—that is, the redemption in Jesus Christ means the restoration of an original good creation” (11). This is indeed good news, news worthy of prayer and supplication to God that He would be at work bringing about His kingdom through us. As those concerned about the raising and training of children, this message should encourage us to passionately seek that God would give us grace to love Him with our whole minds and that He would, through us, impart such a desire to them.

Furthermore, this should be an encouragement to be passionate in our own pursuits, to seek to see the grace of God at work redeeming areas of life often conceded as the realms of godlessness such as business, politics and government, art and creativity. Rather, let us so live that we carry forward the message of the good news of Christ's reign into all that we say and think and do. Let us, having such a spirit, humbly and with prayer thus instruct His covenant gift, children, in the way they should go.