

Foundational Commitments of Veritas Academy

The foundational commitments of a classical and Christian school (or any other school) distinguish it as an institution and are the standards against which all new ideas and practices are tested. They are the core values to which the school (board, administration, faculty, and families) is committed and for which it is responsible to safeguard and promote for future generations.

Christian Worldview: *We believe that every aspect of our children's education must be intentionally founded upon biblical truth.*

We believe the focal point of all that is, has been, and ever will be is the person of Jesus Christ. We believe that the education of our children begins with this reality. God reveals Himself not only specially in His Word, but also generally in every facet of His creation. All knowledge is therefore interrelated and teaches us about God's character, wisdom, and power. Ultimate reality exists only in Him, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and therefore truth can be understood only as it relates to Him, the God of Truth and Sovereign Lord over all. The Scriptures teach that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. We believe therefore that every aspect of our children's education must be intentionally grounded in and integrated with biblical truth.

Classical Liberal Arts: *We are committed to the traditional and long established, exemplary forms and standards in education handed down from ancient and medieval educators.*

We are committed to a classical liberal arts education; the traditional and long established, exemplary forms and standards in education handed down from ancient (Greek, Roman) and medieval educators. We follow the methodology of the Trivium, seeking to identify appropriate analogies of Grammar, Dialectic (Logic), and Rhetoric in all subjects and to teach all subjects in a manner consistent with the appropriate developmental stage of the child. We understand that the liberal arts of antiquity denoted the education "worthy of a free man" (Latin *liber*, "free") –an education intent upon cultivating wisdom, virtue, and eloquence through the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty. We emphasize and seek to preserve and pass on to successive generations the richness of our Western cultural heritage.

Covenantal Family Based School: *We seek to assist parents in their God-given task of educating their children in the Lord.*

We believe God has granted to parents the responsibility and authority for raising their children, including the responsibility of educating them. We seek to assist parents in this God-given responsibility. We also believe that God's work in the life of children occurs primarily in

the home and through the ministry of local churches. We purpose to be an extension of the home and churches --educators who function as agents and servants of parents and churches. We endeavor to provide a model of educating children in which parental involvement is encouraged, indeed, even required. We are committed to fostering a covenantal community of like-minded families, who, with our faculty and staff, encourage one another in their calling to bring up their children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Wisdom and Virtue: *We believe that true education culminates in wise and virtuous students who are being conformed to the image of Christ.*

We believe each child is a living and eternal soul to be nourished, not a product to be manufactured. The purpose of education is not instilling knowledge alone, nor is it merely providing vocational skills. The purpose is inculcating wisdom and virtue in the life of each student. We seek true wisdom that begins with the fear of the Lord, is rooted in the Scriptures, and encompasses all of human experience. We aspire to virtue that reflects the moral excellence of Christ, expresses itself in faithful obedience to God, and demonstrates love to others. Wise and virtuous students will become understanding, thoughtful, and courageous leaders in our homes, churches, and communities.

God-Honoring Excellence: *We are dedicated to teaching and learning with excellence as unto the Lord.*

We believe that all instruction must encourage students to love and honor God through their academic endeavors. God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Students must be challenged at all levels to do quality academic work "heartily, as unto the Lord" because God is worthy of their best. We employ gifted teachers who possess a passion for learning, a passion for teaching, and a passion for Christ. We want our students to possess a love of learning and be well equipped for their future callings.

Appropriate Forms and Habits: *We believe that true education recognizes that hearts and minds are shaped not only by ideas and knowledge, but also by practices, habits, routines, and liturgies.*

We seek to deliberately develop a culture in the school in which every idea, truth, and concept has its fitting visible expression. We seek not the artificial formality of the arrogant, nor formality for formality's sake, but rather a wise attention to form that continually favors appropriateness over casual and comfortable complacency. We believe that true education recognizes that hearts and minds are shaped not by ideas and knowledge only, but also by practices, habits, routines, and liturgies.