

Veritas Academy Family Interview

Please Note: These questions represent many of the important matters that should be discussed with every family applying for admission to Veritas Academy. Depending on discussions with the family prior to the interview, the school administration's personal knowledge of the family, and the content of their application, some of these questions may not need to be asked in the interview. Every family is different, and every interview will be different.

Begin the interview by getting acquainted with the parents and children. Put them at ease. Ask if they have any questions about the school. **PRAY**

Questions for Children: (depending on age)

1. What do you think about attending Veritas Academy? Excited? Scared? Unsure?
2. Why do you think your parents want you to attend Veritas?
3. Favorite school subject? Why? Least favorite? Why?
4. Do you enjoy school? Enjoy learning? Enjoy reading books? Favorite book?
5. What is your favorite TV show? Favorite singer?
6. Do you like video games? Favorite game?
7. PreK & K Enrollees: Go through assessment questions with student/parents.

Questions for Parents:

1. Why do you wish to enroll your child(ren) at Veritas Academy? (Of all your options, why Veritas?)
2. When/how did you become Christians? How do you know that you are a Christian? Probe if uncertain.
3. Complete the sentence: If I _____, then I will succeed as a parent. (What things are most important to you in raising your children?)
4. Look ahead X years to the day your son/daughter graduates from high school. What kind of young man/woman do you want to see on that day? (What is your goal in their education? What traits do you want to see in your child when they are 18?)
5. How do you as parents manage the interaction between your children and worldly culture? (How do you protect your children against worldly influences from culture, music, TV, etc.?)

Note that Veritas seeks to prepare students to engage worldly/secular culture by interaction with non-Christian worldviews and ideas in the "Great Books." While we are very careful/guarded about the books the children read through 6th grade, we do not take an isolated/insulated approach to the works we read in the upper school.

Distinctives of Veritas Academy:

1. Do you believe that you have a basic understanding of what Veritas Academy is about as a Classical, Christian, and Covenantal school? (Not asking to explain Trivium, but do you understand our basic distinctives? Questions?)

2. Have you read **Five Questions for Parents?**

Q1: IS YOUR FAMILY COMMITTED TO CHRIST?

The mission of Veritas is to assist parents in bringing up their children in the Lord. We are here to support the Christian instruction and training that is already established in the home.

We seek to enroll Christian families who actively seek to disciple their children in their home and local church. *Are you intentional about serving Christ and living according to the Scriptures in your home?*

Q2: WHAT IS THE PRIMARY GOAL FOR YOUR CHILD'S K-12 EDUCATION?

The academics at Veritas Academy certainly prepare students for university studies and professional vocations, but Veritas is not a college-prep school. *Veritas seeks to graduate students whose lives are characterized by wisdom, virtue, a love of learning, a desire to serve others, and faithful obedience to God.* We will definitely prepare your child for college, but our driving goals are eternal. Are you in agreement with these goals?

Q3: ARE YOU COMMITTED TO WELL-BEHAVED CHILDREN?

We believe that biblical discipline, the encouragement of an obedient child and the correction of a disobedient child, is a necessary part of education –at home and at school.

Veritas is a school with high standards. We do not assume perfection, but we do expect students to obey their teachers and we expect parental support when a misbehaving student must be corrected. Do you share these expectations for your child's behavior?

Q4: DO YOU VALUE ACADEMICS AND A CHRISTIAN WORK ETHIC?

One of Veritas Academy's strengths is academic excellence. Our curriculum goals are relatively challenging and demand diligence, discipline, and hard work from every student. We have "set the bar high" in our academic standards –and not everyone gets a "trophy." (We resist grade inflation.)

We do not expect children to work excessively. Many students at Veritas participate in extracurricular activities and sports but they learn to prioritize their time and energies. Veritas has elevated academics that demand hard-work and "sturdy kids."?

Q5: DO YOU LOVE LEARNING AND BOOKS?

We love learning and we love books. We seek families who love the same. We pursue knowledge, understanding, and wisdom through books –through THE Book and hundreds of other books. *We challenge our families to make their children's lives more "book oriented" than "screen oriented."* If you want your family to develop a love of wisdom, a thirst for knowledge, and a passion for learning then reading with Veritas will bless your family.

At this time, it might be wise (if younger children are struggling to sit still) to ask the children if they know why they must attend this interview. Explain to them (positively) that their presence helps you to see that they are going to be good students in our school, students that can sit still and control themselves in class. Affirm them that they are doing well, that you know it's difficult, but this will be over before they know it.

School Policy Issues:

From this point forward, walk the family through the student/parent handbook, stopping to discuss and explain the following issues and policies:

1. Statement of Faith: Do you have any questions about our SOF? (Check application for agreement.)

Do you understand that Veritas is Presbyterian /Reformed/Evangelical Protestant? We respect other views of parents and do not have goal of making all children into Presbyterians, but WE ARE PRESBYTERIAN. Any Questions?

2. Parent Involvement: Two levels of involvement

A. At-Home -Daily home chapel/devotion -10-15 min Scripture/prayer.

Daily home reading (read alouds & student readers)

Daily monitoring of homework & help w/ studies.

Read communications from teacher, attend P/T conferences, and work w/ teacher on any issues.

Must register as a homeschooler by Sept 1.

B. General Involvement: You are encouraged to be as involved in our school as you can. There are many opportunities from helping in the classroom to serving on board committees, but your involvement is voluntary. The door is always open to you, but no pressure.

C. Fund-raising: We do a significant amount of fund raising for our tuition assistance program through special events and network of supporters but we do not do any fund raising that involves selling items or that directly involves the children.

3. Code of Student Conduct in Handbook: Please review with child so they understand expectations.

4. Communication and Grievance Policy:

We strive to maintain a culture in which grievances are handled in a biblical manner. Please be aware that when you do have an issue you need to speak to the person directly related to that issue.

5. Discipline Guidelines:

Discuss **two core principles** in school's approach:

A. **Parental responsibility:** Regarding child's behavior and discipline, the buck stops with parents. Consequently, our school does not administer corrective punishment. Our "punishment" is to call dad and have dad handle the punishment at home.

B. **View discipline issues as a heart issue:** Goal is to shepherd the child's heart. We view misbehavior as Scripture views it –as sin, concentrating on heart issues of confession, repentance, and reconciliation. Consequently, we do not use behavior management strategies that focus on outward compliance to rules.

Are these principles consistent with your goals and practices in your home?

Do you as parents expect "first time obedience" from your children? It is expected at Veritas.

6. Other Questions/Issues???

Latin Instruction: Latin is a core subject, not an "enrichment" elective. -3rd

Learning Disability Policy: Review and make sure family understands.

Uniform Policy: Basic uniform items must be purchased from designated suppliers.

Any divorce/custody/separation issues?

7. Tuition & Contract: Next Steps: The school office will contact you to schedule your child's entrance assessment. If the testing goes well, you will receive a letter of acceptance and an enrollment contract.

When you receive the contract, please read it carefully. If you have questions, please call me.

-Understand that the contract is a "contract" –a legal document. Once you sign the contract and pay the deposit, you are bound to the terms of the contract.

The contract is essentially an agreement between the parents and the school. The school promises to provide the education we specify in the S/P handbook and you as parents agree to abide by the school's policies in the handbook and pay the tuition.

Please understand that the contract will allow you get out having to pay the tuition only if there is an "exigent circumstance" –an event that happens outside of your control that significantly hinders your ability to pay the tuition (job loss, illness, etc.) or significantly hinders your child's ability to attend (job relocation or illness). The contract will not allow you to walk away simply because you change your mind.

When you sign the contract, you will need to return it with a 1/12 enrollment deposit.

Payment options: The contract will list two payment options for the remaining 11/12. Please initial the line next to the option on the contract you prefer. You can pay the remaining 11/12 as one lump sum payment on June 1 or in eleven monthly payments of 1/12 each, the first payment being due July 1 and the last being due on May 1. There is no finance fee or service charge for the monthly payments and no discount for the lump sum payment - 12-pay must be set up for automatic bank-draft through FACTS.

Any questions about anything we have discussed? Conclude interview. Thank the family for coming.