



12th Grade

VERITAS ACADEMY GRADE LEVEL PROFILE

In a rapid review of all eras of history, students consider the foundations and movements of Western Civilization as they read the works of the greatest thinkers in history. The skills of good discussion that were built in the previous three grades are consistently employed here. The work of all prior years pays off as the student embodies “the good man speaking well” and presents his or her Senior Thesis.

CLASS SECTIONS

3

STUDENTS PER CLASS

16–18

STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO

16:1

DAYS ON CAMPUS

M–F

Vision of a Veritas Defender

We are committed to growing students towards an ideal of the good, wise, and virtuous young man or woman of faith. The Veritas Valiant reflects one such idealized vision that we hope our students aspire to become, while a Defender reflects the present status, or reality, of all of our students as they are *becoming* Valiant-like.

PORTRAIT OF A DEFENDER

We desire to cultivate people, particularly students, who:

1. Understand and believe the Gospel, trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. Are present and active in the worship and life of the local body of Christ.
3. Find joy in the study of Scripture, prayer, and service of Jesus Christ.
4. Read deeply and charitably; reason truthfully, diligently, and earnestly.
5. Speak and write with clarity, wisdom, and eloquence.
6. Engage creation with wonder and respect; pursue beauty and good workmanship.
7. Love Christ the King, following his command to make disciples of all the nations, teaching them to love God and one another.



School of Rhetoric Overview

RHETORIC STAGE

With minds full of knowledge and the ability to logically organize that knowledge into meaningful arguments, students in the rhetoric stage of classical education are prepared to focus on winsome and effective expression, both in written and spoken form.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The parent's role in the School of Rhetoric can be easily overlooked because the students are quite independent and all instruction at this level is provided by Veritas faculty. However, it is important that parents remain engaged as a mentor and coach for their child. Thoughtful dinner conversations help students process what they are learning and provide parents with opportunities to influence the growth of wisdom and virtue in their children. Help with organization, time management, communication, and study techniques is also important as students develop these life skills.

SCHOOL TRADITIONS

Special School of Rhetoric traditions include a two-day Connect Conference, House Inductions, a weekly assembly, monthly Chapel, week-long celebration and dance for Homecoming, Breathe Conference, School of Rhetoric Retreat, Mr. Defender, Prom, weekly intramural/house competitions, and more.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Opportunities for School of Rhetoric students to connect to the entire community include New Student Orientation, Fall Roundup, Daddy-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Event, and more. Additionally, there are numerous student clubs within the School of Rhetoric, providing ample opportunities for students to connect with one another.

ACADEMIC & COLLEGE ADVISING

Our advising staff meets individually with each family and offers multiple training events throughout the school year to guide students through the selection of courses as well as college and career planning. The advising team remains updated and current on the latest trends related to college admissions.

Technology & Communication

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Technology is utilized as an enhancement to education, but never as a distraction from it. Students are provided the skills necessary for success in this technology-saturated world without putting technology at the center of education.

SCHOOL & CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION

Communication with classroom teachers is mostly via email between the student and teacher, and all School of Rhetoric students receive a school email address for this purpose. Parents may choose to be included in academic emails as well, but Rhetoric students are expected to handle most of this communication on their own. Discipline or other classroom/school issues will be handled with the parent directly.

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Core Subjects

LEADERSHIP	Senior Leadership serves as the capstone Leadership class and is focused on graduating students who are connected to their story and the story of their faith, their family, our school, the Austin community, and the world around them, so that they understand who God created them to be, are confident in His calling on their life, know they can rely on the love and support of the school community they are leaving behind, and possess the ability to look beyond themselves to lead and love those around them in any environment.
HUMANITIES	This course is different from any modern-day government course as it starts at the beginning of Western Civilization, and students read the greatest thinkers on government throughout the ages while growing to understand the history and philosophy that undergirds our modern form of government. The class ends with a practical look at economics. The final installment of English includes many great works from the recent past. Students also write their Senior Thesis, which pulls together all of the skills of rhetoric they have learned over the years. Students research, form an arguable thesis, structure a well-reasoned and well-researched argument, add style, consider the logical, ethical, and emotional appeal in their writing, present their argument in a 20-minute speech, and then defend this argument while thinking on their feet before a panel of experts.
MATH	Twelfth Grade students have options for mathematics at this stage including AP Statistics, AP Calculus, Functions, Statistics & Trigonometry, and Pre-Calculus. Any course selected by the students will have a greater emphasis upon the thought processes, perseverance, and strategies required to solve hard problems. Some students will have finished their math requirements and can focus on other subjects if they desire to do so.
SCIENCE	A variety of science courses are offered at the upper levels. All courses will have a high level laboratory component that emphasizes quality scientific writing in the form of formal lab reports. Options include AP Physics I and II, Molecular Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, and Marine Biology. Some students will have finished their science requirements and can focus on other subjects if they desire to do so.
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	All students must take at least one year of Latin, then may choose to continue their Latin studies or pursue studies in Spanish or American Sign Language. There is an emphasis on being immersed in the language, so before they know it, students will find themselves in a course conducted entirely in the foreign language.
ELECTIVES	Students are offered a wide variety of elective choices, designed to expose them to potential future occupations or hobbies to be enjoyed. Examples are Computer Science, Psychology, Cooking, Archery, Martial Arts, Old Testament, Investing, Photography, Yearbook, Painting, Ceramics, Theater, Musical Theater, Choir, Music Ensemble, and Drumline.

Daily Schedule 8:45am-4:00pm (M/W/F), 8:55am-4:00pm (T/Th)

Students are on campus five days a week with some classes meeting twice a week and others meeting three days a week, thus following a true university schedule. Though they are on campus five days per week, students are only in class about 20-25 hours per week, giving them time on campus to complete homework, meet with teachers, and enjoy their peers. Consider this sample schedule.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Monday

8:45-9:40am – Honors Pre-Calculus
9:45-10:40am – AP Physics I
10:45-11:40am – PreCalculus Lab
11:40am-12:20pm – Lunch
12:20-1:00pm – Chapel/Assembly
1:05-2:00pm – Off-period
2:05-3:00pm – Honors Humanities Seminar
3:05-4:00pm – AP Physics I Lab

Tuesday/Thursday

8:55-10:20am – Off-period
10:30-11:55am – Honors Senior Thesis
11:55am-1:00pm – Lunch/Intramurals/Clubs
1:00-2:25pm – Off-period
2:35-4:00pm – Honors Humanities Harkness

Wednesday/Friday

8:45-9:40am – Honors Pre-Calculus
9:45-10:40am – AP Physics I
10:45-11:40am – Student Congress
11:40am-12:20pm – Lunch
12:20-1:00pm – Senior Leadership
1:05-2:00pm – Off-period
2:05-3:00pm – Honors Humanities Seminar
3:05-4:00 – Digital Photography

School@Home Day

School of Rhetoric students are on campus five days a week, so they are not spending time at home with parents as co-teachers. Depending on the individual student and his/her course load, some time working at home will be required after school hours.

House System

The Veritas Academy School of Rhetoric utilizes a house system, begun in English schools centuries ago. Our 9-12th Graders are divided into four houses with students from all four grade levels in each house. Houses compete in intramural sports and games on school days, earn points for correct uniform wear and helpfulness, and participate in various activities as a group—all looking to win the House Cup on the last day of the school year.

Senior Thesis

SENIOR THESIS CAPSTONE

Culminating many years of challenging academic effort and accomplishment, Veritas Academy Seniors face their final hurdle in the Senior Thesis capstone event in which each student presents a 20-minute memorized oral presentation on a topic they have researched for the entire year, followed by a 20-minute defense before a panel of judges.

Sample Lesson Plans

Lesson Plans are written by classroom teachers for on-campus instruction.

HONORS PRE-CALCULUS

OBJECTIVES (THE LEARNER WILL)

TLW construct large polynomials using the Rational Zeros Theorem.

TLW learn about bounding the number and size of zeroes of a polynomial.

AGENDA

1. Complete warm up: 12 Basic Functions.
2. Homework Q & A.
3. Homework reflection on RRT.
4. Lesson 3.3, Real Zeros of Polynomials- Applications.

HONORS SENIOR THESIS

OBJECTIVES (THE LEARNER WILL)

TLW analyze Propositio and Partitio.

TLW explain bibliography footnotes.

AGENDA

1. Lecture on Propositio and Partitio.
2. Review biography footnotes by looking at examples.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

OBJECTIVES (THE LEARNER WILL)

TLW critique a photograph constructively.

AGENDA

1. Warm-up.
2. Discuss how to critique a photograph.
3. Discuss writing captions for photographs.

HONORS HUMANITIES HARKNESS

OBJECTIVES (THE LEARNER WILL)

TLW continue to trace the character of Cyrus the Great.

TLW be able to list Cyrus' qualities and debate his merits.

AGENDA

1. Review of major building blocks from the last class.
2. Complete quiz.
3. Begin *Cyrus the Great* reading for this week.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

OBJECTIVES (THE LEARNER WILL)

TLW discuss personhood and the Imago Dei.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and opening prayer.
2. Review Chapter 3.
3. Possible discussion questions:
 - Why did Darwinism lead many people to accept euthanasia?
 - How does the sale of humans or their body parts denigrate personhood?
 - How did the New Testament view of children differ radically from that of the surrounding Greco-Roman culture?

AP PHYSICS

OBJECTIVES (THE LEARNER WILL)

TLW observe and mathematically describe projectile motion.

TLW practice and investigate projectile motion.

AGENDA

1. Discuss projectile motion and determine why projectiles have parabolic motion.
2. Practice projectile motion problems.
3. Complete projectile motion investigation.

HONORS HUMANITIES SEMINAR

OBJECTIVES (THE LEARNER WILL)

TLW begin reading *Euthyphro*.

TLW be introduced to the topic of Platonic forms.

AGENDA

1. Complete opening catechism.
2. Review of major building blocks from the last class.
3. Cover Socrates background.
4. Begin reading *Euthyphro*.

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Sample Homework

Homework is written by classroom teachers.

HONORS PRE-CALCULUS

DUE MONDAY (90 MINUTES)

- Complete page 279, #1-57 every other odd.

DUE WEDNESDAY (90 MINUTES)

- Complete page 287, #83-95 odds, 96-97.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

DUE WEDNESDAY (30 MINUTES)

- Finish reading Chapter 3.
- Be prepared to discuss the chapter.

HONORS SENIOR THESIS

DUE THURSDAY (60 MINUTES)

- Review notes taken on Propositio and Partitio.
- Review notes take on Confirmatio points.

AP PHYSICS

DUE MONDAY (30 MINUTES)

- Read section 3.6.

DUE WEDNESDAY (120 MINUTES)

- Complete Mastering Physics assignment.
- Read page 159 & complete #1, 3, 5, and 7.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

DUE WEDNESDAY (60-120 MINUTES)

- Write a one page self-critique using the practices discussed in class.
- Be prepared to share your critique with the class.

HONORS HUMANITIES SEMINAR

DUE MONDAY (40 MINUTES)

- Read the Introduction to *Four Texts on Socrates* (p. 9-24).

DUE FRIDAY (60 MINUTES)

- Read up to 22e in Plato's *Apology*.

HONORS HUMANITIES HARKNESS

DUE TUESDAY (45 MINUTES)

- Read chapters 1 and 2 of *Cyrus the Great*.
- Prepare for a quiz over this content.

