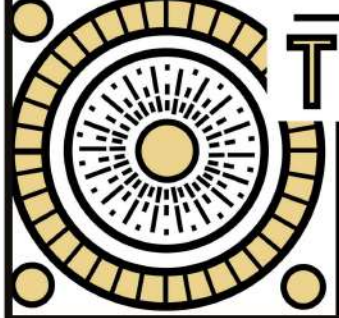
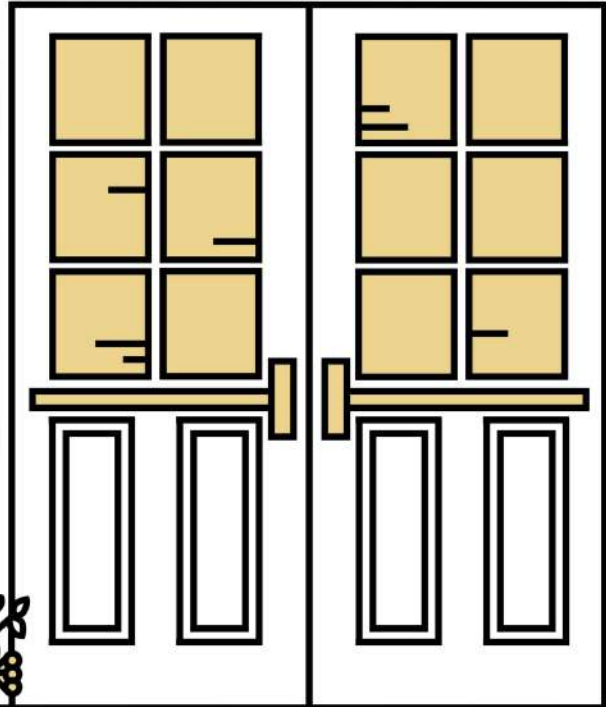
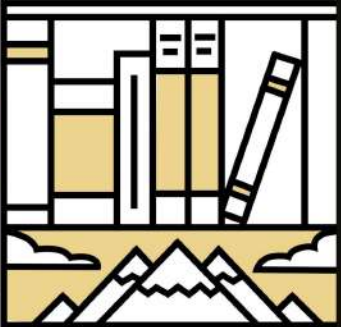
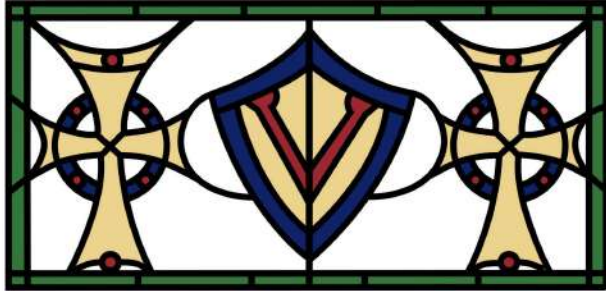
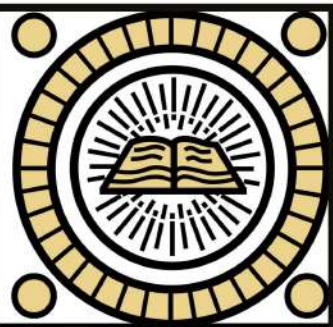
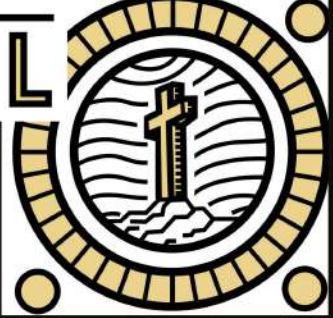




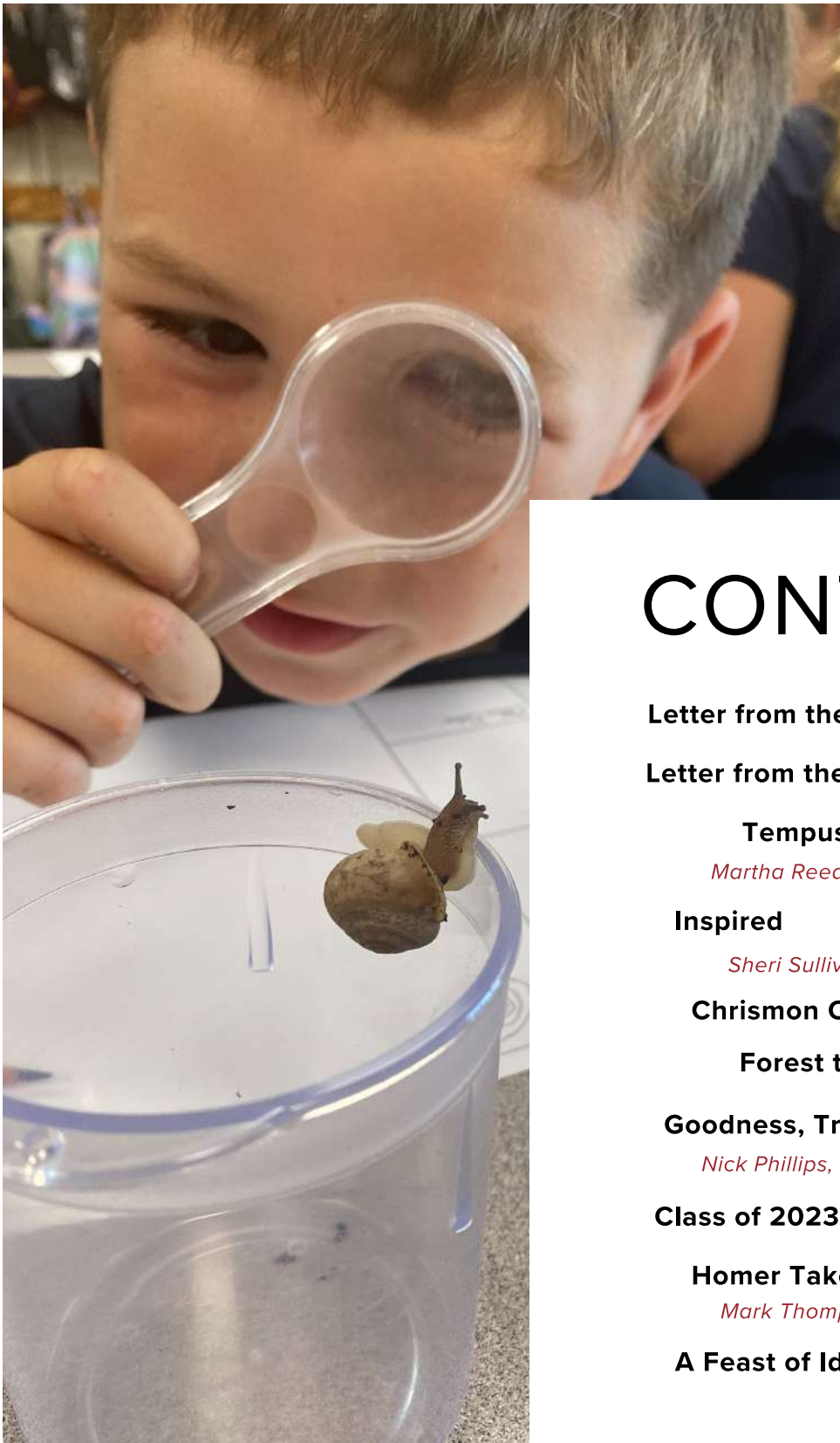
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A white dove with wings spread, perched on a sunburst.

THE BEAUTIFUL



THE VOICE OF VERITAS



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DWELLING IN GOD'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE:

Celebrating Twenty-Five Years
of Classical Christian Education at Veritas

As the author of all reality, time is among God's greatest designs. Similar to a flowing river, from the moment of conception until our leaving this earth, we are bound by time. Setting aside all of the clichés about time, we should view it as a beautiful gift.

We celebrate the passing of time with birthdays, anniversaries, and all sorts of "mile markers." God has richly blessed Veritas Christian Academy over its twenty-five year existence. Of course, we are part of an older and more esteemed historical reality than our short existence. We belong to an educational heritage that dates back thousands of years to Jewish-Christian and Greek and Roman roots.

The very way we propose that formal education and school should be conducted is older than American Christian schooling. The way we do what we do is solidly anchored in the past, enacted in the present, and moving confidently toward the future. Veritas is not characterized by an atmosphere of anxiety and ignorance because we serve the one true God who is over our past, present, and future. As with many truths, C.S. Lewis, taking a cue from the Classical Christian philosopher Boethius, convincingly described God as dwelling in "the eternal

moment" where our creator and redeemer God is outside of time, firmly placed within eternity. This means that every moment--past, present, and future--is always present to our Lord. This also means that we can joyfully celebrate our twenty five years of existence and service to the glory of the Lord. Over the past twenty-five years, we have committed ourselves to putting the good, true, and beautiful in every part of the school with all that we do. Following the lead of Holy Writ, Augustine, Boethius, C.S. Lewis and all others engaged in the Great Conversation, we aspire to join that amazing heritage that is Classical Christian education.

At Veritas, it is evident that God is over all. The gracious, kind, and gentle daily interactions, the year-after-year faithfulness to the mission of being a Christian Classical academy has been, is, and will be ever before our eyes. We seek to be mindful of the truth that we came into being, currently flourish, and will move faithfully forward into the future God has designed for us. May the Lord continue to call us into His eternal moment. We hope you enjoy this year's VOX as you see some highlights of the past and present and as we move together into the future.

Dr. Robert Woods
Headmaster



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is interesting how thoughts become words, then become deeds. When Margo and I relocated to Hendersonville in 1996, we had already been introduced to the value of classical Christian education by our good friend, Dave Terhune. Not realizing that we would pursue this further, soon after our arrival the Lord truly placed it upon our hearts to start planning such a school here in Henderson County. We initially began plans with our new pastor, Dave Desforge, and later expanded this to a small group, the Steering Committee, with the administrative enthusiasm of Kay Belknap and Lynn Gilpin.

The doors were open for Veritas Christian Academy in August 1998 at Faith Bible Church in Mills River with 56 students, 7 teachers, and a budget of \$250,000. We quickly outgrew this initial location and moved the next year to Arden First Baptist Church, staying for 2 ½ years, at which time the Fletcher Elementary School (formerly Fletcher High School) became available in 2001. After a series of miraculous events, we were able to purchase this facility and moved in January 2002. The reason that Margo and I have such great confidence in the future of

Veritas is that we are certain that the initial idea was planted by the Lord.

We would not have had the courage (or audacity) to pursue this project otherwise. We have seen God's provision "just in time" over and over again. From the facilities at Mills River, Arden and Fletcher and many expansions, including the truly unique School within a School developed by Mark and Teri Muir, there have been powerful prayer warriors supporting Veritas all along the way.

Oddly, there is one, as yet, unanswered prayer that I will share with you. About 8 years ago, at the end of a Board meeting, an idea seemed to "bubble up" during our prayer time, that we must pray for Veritas every morning for 120 days. The reason: "for revival." The board members were confident that we had been assigned this and so we complied.

However, I say "odd" because revival is not specifically in our mission statement. It's not our job. Nevertheless, being a "light on the hill" has always been our prayer and we desire that students acquire an "intelligent faith." And yes, the Holy Spirit is notable at Veritas. Even so, we eagerly await the next great move of the Lord. Could it be revival?

Dr. Gary C. Prechter
Chairman, Veritas Board of Trustees

TEMPUS FUGIT TIME FLIES

MARTHA REED, GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Time flies (or in Latin, tempus fugit) when you are having fun, or so the old saying goes. It is true that the 2022-2023 school year did seem to pass rather quickly (at least to some of us). Sure, days may have seemed long, but the year as a whole was short. This is a bit of a microcosm of life, especially as we get older.

In contemplating what made the time fly this year, I can't help but think of some of the memorable moments of the year. As I recall these moments, I'm struck by their one consistent characteristic: they were slow. Students don't remember the times they had to rush to get to the next class or hurry up to finish an assignment. They remember the moments of rest. The moments where time almost stood still for a moment.

MOMENTS LIKE THESE:



CHRISMON ORNAMENTS: Grammar School students spent weeks making handmade ornaments to give to their parents for Christmas. A new Veritas tradition!

SHADOW PLAY: when first graders chased the sun to create shadows and trace their silhouettes
Paideia Seminar: in which Kindergarteners discussed the flag and learned how to fold it and treat it respectfully



HATCHING CHICKENS: a weeks-long journey by fourth-graders who incubated, candled, and observed eggs hatch into chicks, and watched them grow from chicks to chickens, some of which will now have a permanent home at Veritas as students learn to care for them in coming years

ARTIST STUDY: where second grade students roamed the halls looking for works of art that held techniques similar to the one used by the artist they studied that week



FOREST FORAGING: in which students learned to forage for food in the Veritas woods and then feasted on the fruits of their labors

BUILDING MEDIEVAL CASTLES: the painstaking process of designing, assembling, and working with a team to create a model of an authentic medieval castle

MATH GAME FRIDAYS: where students of all ages sharpened their math skills through games designed to strengthen number sense and fact fluency

D.E.A.R TIME: a highlight of the 3rd graders' day where they Dropped Everything And Read

AND THE LIST GOES ON.

Each one of these moments took longer than completing a worksheet or copying notes, but in their slowness, they vividly emphasize how tempus fugit when we slow down and cherish the things that matter.



INSPIRED

Sheri Sullivan,
Logic School Principal

“Inspired” has become quite the theme this year. The word appeared on the cover of our 2022-2023 yearbook, and Dr. Woods wrote an eloquent piece on the first page to remind us that the one true God is our ultimate inspiration for all of life.

Inspire: To excite or encourage. It comes from the Latin word that means to inflame or to blow into. When you inspire something, it is as if you are blowing air over a low flame to make it grow. There is always a certain excitement and satisfaction one feels when the low flame actually fully ignites. In the same way, teachers seeking to inspire students will feel the same excitement and satisfaction as we watch them burst into flame and ignite with skills that teach them to think deeply and to develop hearts that desire the best for others.

How was that inspiration accomplished this year? It went far beyond just filling a student’s head with knowledge. It involved having them draw out an author’s intent throughout great literature, reaching justifiable conclusions based on the text, and creating persuasive arguments for their opinions...with the help of the Mississippi River flowing through the classroom or a pig's

head on a broom! It involved truly understanding a Bible passage after intense discussion during a seminar...and a skit complete with foam dart guns! It was evident when students created presentations about the implications of technology, agriculture, and industry on the world throughout history and how those things continue to affect us today. We sought to inspire goodness, truth, and beauty through team activities that built camaraderie and sportsmanship across the grades...using lots of spaghetti, marshmallows, and tape! We witnessed students praying for and comforting one another when the need arose. Though not perfect, we have students who know how to be kind and thoughtful and concerned for one another such that they reach out for guidance when relationships start to take a wrong turn. As an extra project, they brought in mountains of canned food at Christmas for Fletcher First Baptist Church's Food Pantry and produced breathtaking works of art which

included portraits of themselves and animals which brought genuine accolades from their peers.

If you attended graduation this year, I’m sure you felt the heat from the fire that was ignited by our salutatorian and valedictorian who inspired us as they spoke that evening. Their message was clear: understanding one’s purpose in God’s kingdom, not shying away from hard work, and being lifelong learners & thinkers are the ultimate keys to success. We have come full circle - hearing their words brought tears to my eyes and joy to my heart as I realized they really had “gotten it” (as do many VCA students!), and that message carries on as our graduates take their place in society. The true and good and beautiful is evident at Veritas, and we are indeed blessed by our God who is the ultimate inspiration. As Veritas celebrates its twenty-fifth year, may He grant the same favor, blessing, and provision for the next 25.

To God be the Glory!



CHRISMON ORNAMENTS

A NEW VCA TRADITION

This year Veritas Christian Academy began a new and beautiful tradition. We created our first ever Chrismon Trees. Perhaps you had an opportunity to see one or more of the three Chrismon Trees in the halls. They were decorated with beautiful ornaments made by Grammar and Logic School art students.

Chrismon ornaments are gold and white ornaments representing centuries-old Christian symbols: the Chris from Christ and Mon from Monogram. They find their origin in the Ascension Lutheran Church of Danville, Virginia, during the 1950s. Based on ancient monograms, the first designs included Greek symbol abbreviations and crosses that honored Jesus Christ and His teachings. Designs have expanded to include many images that celebrate Christ. The White and Gold colors remind us of Christ's purity and God's majesty. The evergreen tree backdrop symbolizes the eternal life Christ offers his followers. The tree's white lights proclaim Christ's role as the Light of the world.

The 2022 Veritas Chrismon Collection contains ornaments made by each grade representing the following symbols:



1. PreK: Gold Scallop Shell, to remind of us baptism and profession of faith

2. Kindergarten: Star of Bethlehem, pointing us to the Babe in the Manger

3. First Grade: Ichthus Fish, reminding us of the earliest Christians

4. Second Grade: Lamb, representing Christ the Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God

5. Third Grade: The Babe in the Manger

6. Fourth Grade: White Doves, representing the peace of Christ

7. Fifth Grade: Angel, bringing us Good Tidings of Great Joy

8. Logic: Various crosses representing the crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior



We know our students and their families will treasure these beautiful heirloom ornaments for years to come and we already greatly anticipate the 2023 Chrismon Collection!

FOREST TO FORK

FOURTH GRADE'S FOREST TO FORK FUN

Fourth grade had a tremendous year of learning and exploration in the great outdoors this year. At the beginning of the school year, they planted a garden with lettuce, carrots, and other vegetables. They tended the garden throughout the year and also helped to get the school's first compost bin up and running.

One especially exciting day, they took a trip into the acres of Veritas woods and foraged mushrooms, roots, weeds, and other edible plants. Our culinary class teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford, put together an exquisite and delicious feast for the students to enjoy their hard work.

The spread included Violet Leaf Pesto, Onion Grass Potatoes, Pine Needle Cookies and Donuts, Wild Rose Petal Jam, Cleaver Water, and Sourwood and Spice Bush Soda.

What a fabulous and fun time of learning and tasting for the fourth-grade classes!



“Goodness, truth, and beauty”- the phrase is an oft-repeated one in classical, Christian education. It is ever-present at conferences, in books, articles, and blog posts, in continuing education courses and workshops, and in mission statements and mottos. The phrase is repeated so often that it has become a shibboleth- a statement made to identify someone as part of a particular group. When we hear “goodness, truth, and beauty,” we can count on the writer or speaker as being “one of us.” I mean no irreverence to say also that it can become a stock phrase, something echoed continuously but with little thought given about its meaning.

However, these three great transcendentals, these properties of being that emanate directly from God, are so much more than mere words on a mission statement, advertising slogans, or brand identifiers.

We want our students to deeply and sincerely love and pursue goodness, truth, and beauty. We want them to know that universal and objective standards of these three properties exist, and that they are worth pursuing because they help us to live as beings created in the image of God. We do this, for instance, by reading and discussing good, worthwhile works of literature. We have filled the school with beautiful works of art, not solely for

decoration, but to uplift the minds of those who see them. We speak to objective, consistent standards of truth in our classes, in our chapels, and in our small groups.

In *The Abolition of Man*, C.S. Lewis writes of “men without chests.” These are students with prodigious worldly knowledge but little in the way of a functional ethical or aesthetic compass. They are capable of knowing and creating but cannot evaluate the merits of that knowledge or creation. Men without chests are coldly intellectual and have not wedded ethics with an appropriate emotional reaction. In sum, they never ask if something *should* be done but only whether it *can* be done. The converse trend also exists- those with chests only- whose decisions and opinions are formed by the turbulent, subjective whims of the personal passions.



We have seen this creep into everyday vocabulary when “I feel” is often substituted for “I think.” This is imagination and emotion without knowledge or direction, what Anthony Esolen calls an “amorphous jellyfish.”

During commencement this year, our salutatorian emphasized that while the question of “What do you want to be when you grow up?” is valid and important, the more pressing question is “*Who* do you want to be when you grow up?” She went on to say that, if all we have done is provide our students with a top-tier education and helped them get into college, we have failed. We also, and more importantly, must know “who we are and *Whose* we are.” We are beings created in the image of God and called to be His children. And it is our fervent hope and constant prayer that our efforts lead our children to know this above all else.

Congratulations

CLASS OF

2023



Vincent Babcock



Mary Garcia Coe



John Dieterly



Colt Drew



Jake Katzen



Carolyn Leigh



Briar Maxwell



Adrienne McMahan



Elisabeth Moffitt



Isabel de la Peña



Jeremy Ramos



Victoria Weatherman

A NEW LIFE

PERSPECTIVE



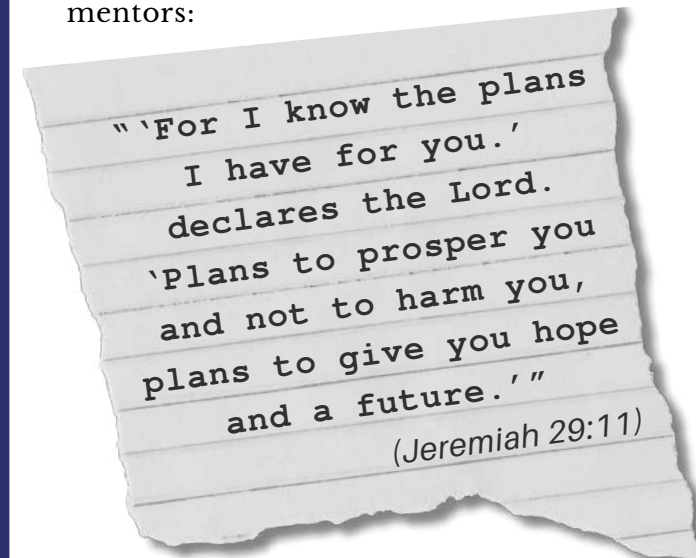
Vincent Babcock, Class of 2023 Valedictorian

To our amazing teachers who guided through hardships and led us to triumphs as the minds of tomorrow, we thank you and we love you. To our parents and families that raised us and chose to bring us to this truly unique place for our education. I want to also personally thank and address my own classmates. You all have been the most fantastic set of students that I am so grateful to be a part of. As a final goodbye to you as well as to this school I would like to share my new life-philosophy that was given to me in the form of three distinct ideas.

First, I want to give a rather strange idea. I hope that each one of us, at some point, fails. I hope that each one of us scrapes our knees, breaks a bone, loses a job, goes through hardship, understands pain. It is in those moments of weakness and desperation that the true values of one's heart become evident. In these moments, we must pour ourselves out all the more so that our pain may strengthen us and we remember these hardships as opportunities to grow as a person. The hotter the fire, the stronger the piece of steel. We will all be tested, yet how we respond to these tests is up to us.



Second, I want to share with you a bible verse given to me by one of my mentors:



There will be many times in our lives when we feel completely defeated and all our work may be for naught. These times are we in most need of the Lord. I hope that we all are given the opportunity to resist trying to only rely on ourselves, to say I Will Be Better, and understand that we are never alone and we always have someone on our side who has great plans for us.

Lastly, I want to share a poem and a quote with you that go hand-in-hand. This piece of paper was given to me by my grandfather, the most influential man in my entire life. It was given to him by his

father who worked from the ground up in a new country filled with trials and uncertain times. Finally, the quote that sums up my entire perspective on the future. "Let me tell you what I wish I'd known when I was young and dreamed of glory: you have no control over who lives, who dies, who tells your story."-Lin-Manuel Miranda

We are breaching out into the world for the very first time, but we cannot forget that we are not in control. We don't know what this world is going to throw at us. I am sure I am not the only one who is staggering at the thought. Regardless of what might happen, we must always trust Him. So, Class of 2023, I leave you with one last highschool written assignment: whether it is your legacy, your relationships with others, your family, live life to the fullest with the Lord at the center. One day become the mentor someone can listen to and have their life changed. Never look back in regret and only in happy remembrance. Forever look forward with excitement that one day someone might live to tell our stories.

**CLASS OF 2023,
IT'S TIME...
LET'S START WRITING!**

"Who do you want to be when you grow up?"

Mary Garcia Coe, Class of 2023 Salutatorian

I'm sure that everyone at some point in our lives, especially when we were little, were asked the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I wonder how many people actually grow up to be what they wanted to be when they were 5 years old. I for one would be driving an ice cream truck. Other graduates tonight would be pursuing their careers as a scientist, a hairdresser, a fashion designer, an NFL player, a detective, a cowboy, a police officer, a librarian, the president, and a pirate.

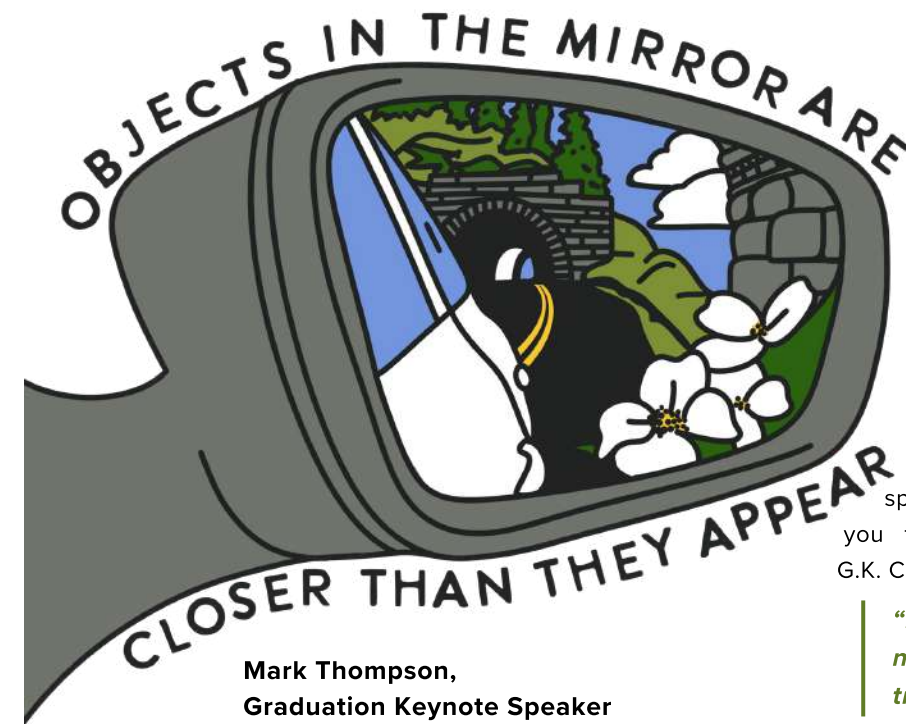
While these are funny and endearing to think about, the careers that we choose are not what define us. Questions like this keep our focus more on striving and achieving. It causes us to put our worth in our achievements and awards rather than our character and heart. The more important question we should be asking others is not "What they want to be" but "Who they want to be when they grow up?"

It is an important goal of a Classical Christian Education to help students to excel academically, to, in fact, achieve high goals in our studies. But any school can do that. If that is all a school accomplishes in its students, then that might be impressive, but it is a gross failure. What separates Veritas from a

school whose main focus is academics and achievements, is its commitment to and investment in, not what we do, but who we are, and whose we are. Veritas understands that, as a 20th century French priest said, "We are not physical beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a physical experience."

The Veritas community does, of course, want us to do our best, but more importantly, they help us to be our best. The teachers at Veritas see our character and our attitudes before they see our grades or our accomplishments. They make it clear to every student that they are more concerned with our hearts and our spiritual development, and that teaching is a vehicle by which they can mentor us and help us grow. It is not unusual to see teachers praying with or for students. Our teachers take time to guide us through social or personal challenges when we seek their help. They make sure we are not just learning facts in a vacuum, but that we can take what we are learning and apply it in such a way that it builds our characters. Our teachers remind us daily that they care deeply about WHO we are, and that we are all image bearers of Christ, and that our worth comes from our identity in Him.

I speak on behalf of my whole class when I say that we can not thank Veritas enough for creating a community that nurtures our spirits and grounds us in who we are and who we want to continue to become.



It has been said that "people do not remember what you say, but they do remember how you made them feel." We hope those cheers made you feel good. We also hope that in the time that you have been at Veritas, you have felt like you matter, that you felt pursued, that you felt part of a community, that you felt the Love of God, and that all of these will make you long to find your new Veritas in the next step of your journey as the current Veritas will get smaller in your rear view mirror.

And since you won't remember anything I say long term, I've pulled some strings and made sure that my words and your commencement theme will forever go with you down the road wherever you may go. You see, the Lord pre-ordained this moment when the Spirit inspired our Congress to pass into law, some 50 years ago, the phrase that must appear on all right handed side mirrors in vehicles stating...."Objects in mirror are closer than they appear."

You see Seniors, the convexity of the side mirror on your car allows you to see a wider picture (which is quite beneficial), but that makes the objects in that same mirror appear smaller than they really are. As you get ready to walk across this stage and receive your high school diploma, for a few moments let's be reminded that those objects in the mirror, in reality, are so large that we are going to call them by name: legacy, lessons and love.

As you continue on your journey, know that wisdom is gained by experience and if you look behind you, there are years of experience looking back at you. As we

check that mirror again, be reminded that your teachers represent your 13 years of formal education that lead us to this night. Including all of your required classes, you have been taught so much more patience, kindness, self-control, respect, responsibility, deadlines, accountability, creativity, flexibility, spontaneity and most of all they have encouraged you to be passionately curious. We agree with G.K. Chesterton when he said

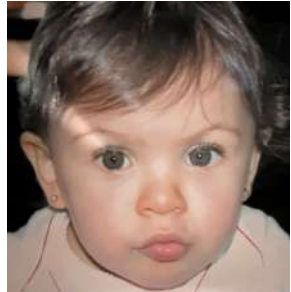
"Education is not a subject, and it does not deal in subjects. It is instead the transfer of a way of life."

Your teachers have shared their stories of their families with you as they listened to the stories of yours, as if we were an extension of each other's family. Seniors, you are an extension of our family and as such, the lessons from Veritas will seem small as you look in that mirror as you pull away, but their teachings, lessons, stories will remain closer than they may appear.

The amount of tears you have caused your parents is uncountable, but yet, their love for you has only grown stronger. Of course many were tears of joy, but some were tears of heartache and pain, and the struggles you have encountered, they have carried along with you. The relationships you have with your friends, they have hoped for. The grades that you may or may not have done your best on, they have encouraged you every step of the way and know that their only goal was for you to reach your full potential.

They were your taxi service and your biggest fans, they listened to all of your presentations, your declamations and... your rants. The decisions that have led them to keeping you at Veritas, have come with sacrifices. Never will you know the full impact of their commitment to you, until you may be blessed with a child of your own someday. And again, objects such as their fierce love for you, has always been closer than it may have appeared.

As we turn from looking into our side mirror, we now look ahead. There are all kinds of perils ahead of you, too many to name. However, you have what it takes to navigate around the pitfalls because we know who you are!



Vincent – your name means Conqueror. You are Kind-Hearted, Inquisitive, Courageous and Ambitious.

Mary – your name means Beloved. You are Enthusiastic, Selfless, Persuasive and Compassionate.

Isabel – your name means God is abundant. You are Creative, Spunky, Genuine and Joyful.

John – your name means Graced by God. You are Hardworking, Tenacious, Appreciative, and Perseverant.

Colt – your named means Youthful Strength. You are Competitive, Quick Witted, Competent, and Adventurous.

Jake – your name means May God Protect. You are Humble, Considerate, Dependable and Level Headed.

Carolyn – your name means Song of Happiness. You are Poetic, Resourceful, Good-Natured and Thoughtful.

Briar – your name means Strong and Sturdy. You are Consistent, Athletic, Positive and Kind.

Adrienne – your name means Healthy and Strong. You are Friendly, Honest, Cooperative, and Loyal.

Elisabeth – your name means Pledged to God. You are Optimistic, Curious, Idealistic and Polite.

Jeremy – your name means God will Uplift. You are Animated, Appreciative, Courteous, and Responsive.

Victoria – your name means Victory. You are Artistic, Accomplished, Grounded, and Motivated.



You seniors, have been set apart, you have been equipped, your soul bought with a price; in response, we encourage you to be purposeful, and stay in the moment, because we live in a time where if you don't stand for something, you may just fall for anything. Your family's faith, will need to become your own faith.

And as you stand together tonight possibly for the last time as a group, look at your classmates and remember the words of wisdom from Ecclesiastes which says, "Where one alone may be overcome, two together can resist, but A three-ply cord is not easily broken." This verse is a reminder that your Christian friendships that have helped you get to this point, will be necessary in your journey ahead. But as you leave these friends behind, you will make new ones as well. Remember that true friendship multiplies the good in you, and divides the evil.

We all have experienced close calls on the road of life, and you will as well. You can look at it and be frustrated and irritated, or be humbled and grateful for your next chance and your next breath. Your attitude sets the altitude for your gratitude. Some breaks

will go your way in life, others will not. And Just as there are blind spots in your mirrors, so we all have them in life, where we don't quite see the full picture. Often times, along with being patient (just like in driving), we need someone to help us gain perspective. So, find a mentor who is farther down the path then you are on and is willing to speak into your blind spots from their experiences, helping you grow in discernment, wisdom, and joy. And seek out a community that is edifying and challenges you to grow in your faith, because this is what will sustain you when you may not feel that the legacy, lessons and love are near enough.

Finally seniors, on your 8th grade trip to Washington D.C., you visited many Smithsonian museums. One in particular and a very impactful experience, was the Holocaust museum. It told the story of Hitler's rise to power, the Nazi rule and the courageous Liberation of all captive cities and prisoners of war. Just before exiting the museum, The last quote you read was from a German Pastor named Martin Niemoller, who confessed that in his own silence toward the uprising of the Nazi rule, it was as if he was being complicit (going

along with). His silence in that time, was forever his burden to bear. The quote reads,

"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."

You seniors, also have a voice. With your legacy, lessons and love fully backing you and being so much closer than they may appear, Practice using it, so you won't lose it. Our prayer for you is to "find favor with God and man" and for "God to grant you the serenity to accept the things you cannot change, courage to change the things you can, and the wisdom to know the difference". So seniors, take the wheel, Go, and seek out that wisdom, and always remember that the objects in the mirror will always be closer than they appear as you move on down the road.

HOMER TAKES THE HOUSE CUP

MARK THOMPSON,
VCA HOUSE SPONSOR

This year completes our 5th year of implementing and fine tuning our Veritas House System. Although each grade throughout is given the opportunity to be a part of cheering for and getting to know the House members, the actual Sorting Hat ceremony happens at retreat in the fall for the Rhetoric School Students. Once the sorting hat has spoken, the games, competitions and camaraderie begin. We have weekly house challenges between the houses, which points are awarded for 1st = 40pts., - 4th = 10pts., and each quarter we have a mega event which scores 1st = 100 pts - 4th = 25 points. All in all, this year the houses ebbed and flowed for who was in 1st place. Weekly Challenges consisted both of outdoor and indoor competitions, including sports, trivia and game shows. The quarterly mega events consisted of the talent show, Christmas song dance challenge, Literature festival door contest, Pi-day performances and our Amazing Race Relay, which was the final house event of the year. This is the first year in which three of the four houses were in the running for the house cup at the relay and ultimately the HOMER House took home the house cup. All in all, we are reminded weekly that through the purposeful positioning of fun competitions inside of our weekly rhetoric school schedule, we have witnessed students look forward to each week's house challenge and more importantly have grown closer as a rhetoric school community in figuring out how to work together for the common good. We are already looking forward to next school year's fall retreat and hearing which house the sorting hat will place each rising 9th grader and new student with the task to come alongside and help build a stronger house.



A FEAST OF IDEAS



In her *Philosophy of Education*, the nineteenth century British educator Charlotte Mason proposes that “the only vital method of education appears to be that children should read worthy books, many worthy books.” We here at Veritas Christian Academy wholeheartedly agree! In February 2023, VCA held its first annual week-long literature festival. The theme, A Feast of Ideas, grew out of Charlotte Mason’s ideas that education is spreading a feast in front of our students, developing their mental appetites and refining their intellectual palette.

The week-long event held many exciting and stimulating events for students in all grades. Students and faculty alike enjoyed having extra reading time each day during DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read). Some classes had themed reading days and enjoyed the change of pace that the focus on books brought.

The Main Courses of this Feast of Ideas were several school-wide events including the door decoration contest, special reader’s theater performances by the faculty, an Open House, and the Book Fair.



Students worked together with classmates to deck the doors of the school with book-themed decorations. From *Little House on the Prairie* to *St. Augustine’s Confessions*, the doors reflected the books that students had read throughout the year. On the Friday of Literature Festival week, parents and grandparents were invited to an Open House to join their students for a tour of the doors.

This Open House coincided with the Book Fair in which a curated selection of books was available for students and parents to purchase. The most popular book of the fair was *Loud Mouse*, which was the Grammar School faculty’s reader’s theater selection! Students could not wait to get their copy of the book delivered by Loud Mouse himself, Dr. Woods!

Students and faculty alike are already looking forward to next year’s Literature Festival. This is as it should be in a classical school that esteems both tradition and books.



SOCRATES AT VERITAS

Would you agree that questions, by their very nature are engaging? Agree or disagree, you were engaged by the above question. Some believe that this is also why the Bible is filled with questions from beginning to end. God intimately understands His human creation. He knows the way He designed us and He designed our sense of wonder. Possibly, the most famous teacher who asked questions is Socrates. The many dialogues influenced by Socrates are filled with thousands of questions.

When done well, the Socratic way of teaching and learning truly engages the whole student the whole time. Even better, the approach to education can be done with children as young as five years old. In addition to skills such as listening, reading, conversing, and writing being developed, students are being invited to think. These class sessions are often wonderful conversations. I would add that this conversational atmosphere is also complementary to our disciple efforts as a Christian Classical school. This approach to asking questions and seeking answers when considering a poem, a painting, a play, a vase, a novel, a building, a math formula, a short story, a model of the human heart, and

historical documents, is a marvelous way to come to a better understanding of whatever we are studying. Moving past factual questions to questions calling for inference, interpretation, analysis of form and content, and synthesis – connecting parts to the whole – will engage the students' imaginations and reason.

Several of the teachers at Veritas have conducted specific types of Socratic seminars on a range of Biblical passages, The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina, Cicero's essay On Friendship, The Multiplication Table, select short stories, *The Little Engine That Could*, and certain poems. These occurred from the first grade through twelfth grade. The teachers and the students are all encouraged to listen with the ears and the mind. They are all guided to ask questions and reflect together. Seminars require greater attention as each student is expected to participate.

Questions, good questions, are fuel for the engine of a lively and robust conversation. While factual questions can be asked and answered, the better questions are those to which no clear definitive answer exists right away. Questions of personal application are desirable, but only after thoughtful engagement as to the meaning of what is being discussed.

2023 - 2024
PAIDEIA
SEMINAR TOPICS

1, 2, 3 to the Zoo

12 Paideia Principles

12x Multiplication Table

Amazing Grace

Ants

Betsy Ross

Breezing Up

Cicero, On the Gods

Daniel 6

Earthdance

Esther

Map of the 50 States

Miss Nelson is Missing

Moon Phases

Moses in the Basket

Number Chart

Once Upon a Time: The 12-Hour Clock Face

Paul Revere-The Midnight Ride

Slowly, Slowly, Slowly said the Sloth

Starry Night

Stone Soup

Tacky the Penguin

The American Flag

The Elves and the Shoemaker

The Flower Hunter (William Bartram)

The Giving Tree

The Good Samaritan

The Graveyard of the Atlantic
Seminar and Topography Map Group Project

The Legend of the Three Trees

The Lord's Prayer

The Mixed-Up Chameleon

The Nativity of the Lord

The Paideia Project

The Parable of the Sower

The Rich Man and the Shoemaker

The Sneetches

The Snowy Day

The Three Questions

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Three Billy Goats Gruff

Two Maps of Africa

Washington Crossing the Delaware

Where Once There Was A Wood

The Blind Men and the Elephant

Thorn Rose, the Sleeping Beauty

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Clara Overholser, Rhetoric Student

STUDENT REFLECTION OF THE ANNUAL SALT AND LIGHT SERVE-A-THON

Reading and discussing the Sermon on the Mount in class has expanded my opinion on certain aspects of the Scripture. The part of this passage that stuck out to me is Matthew 5:13 saying, "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet." This passage compares Christians to the salt of the earth, and says if we have lost our taste, how can our saltiness be restored, for then we are no longer good for anything. When we were discussing this in our seminar as well as our walk and talk, my knowledge grew on this topic. First, in this time period they used salt as a means of preservation because it delays decay and deterioration. The world is always bending toward decomposition and rotting away. When the world is left to itself, it festers, because evil is everywhere, always present and active. We live in a world of brokenness. Some of the Christless structures of the world may look okay, but inside they are rotting away, and it is just a matter of time before they fall. I think that this suggests the function of the church: The church, as salt, functions as a constraint to decay and a preservative in a disintegrating world. I also thought that, as salt, we as citizens of the kingdom should not lose our flavor, our influence in the world today. If a Christian loses its saltiness, we are then



failing to fulfill our purpose, failing to live up to our responsibilities. We should retain our Gospel witness and testimony in the world, be a good example to others; in order to have an impact on society, and seek to combat moral decay.

The next verse in this passage is Matthew 5:14-16 saying:

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Salt is used to delay decay and destruction and light is used for showing the way. Light combats darkness revealing the path and the truth. Light is a common symbol used in the Bible. It represents purity, truth, knowledge, divine revelation, and God's presence. The Israelites thought of themselves as lights in a dark world, but the Old Testament spoke of the Messiah as the true light of the world. A light is visible, obvious, and noticeable; it shines forth. Citizens of the kingdom are "the light of the world." They must be obvious, visible, and noticeable. So as long as we, as Christ's followers remain in living contact with the original light then we are a Light to others.

I often hear biblical things over and over and sometimes forget the true meaning of the words. People often say "be salt and light" but do they really understand the meaning of those words? Thoroughly reading and discussing this text has expanded my understanding on how we should retain our Gospel, witness the world and make an impact, expanding the Heavenly father's kingdom. We should also be little lights for Christ, reflecting His true nature.

Hope

The Ultimate Yearning for Goodness

ALAINA MEYER, RHETORIC STUDENT

Hope is a beautiful, though wily, thing. It can seem so plausible but then prove so fleeting, or vice versa. In my life, I have grown well acquainted with the feeling of hope. The Barnhart Concise Dictionary of Etymology reveals that the word “hope” comes from as far back as the Old English “hopian” (verb), meaning to “wish,” “expect,” or “look forward to something,” and “hopa” (noun), meaning “expectation,” “trust,” or “hope.” Truly, hope describes a yearning, whether reasonable and healthy or unreasonable and unhealthy, for future things, despite seemingly contradictory or possibly contradictory circumstances.

Hope paints in vivid hues a desire for things not yet attained. Engaging the mind with possible joys, this longing prevents the full invasion of one’s doubts, fears, or desperation. While hoping, someone imagines their desires coming to fruition. To the man stranded on a desolate isle, it represents a lifeline, attaching him by some string to his rescuer. This yearning can be acute and piercing or slight and subtle. However, real hope is by no means casually spoken, passed off for this little thing or that little thing as a mere

conversational courtesy. For example, someone might say, “Oh, I hope so,” with no more than the subtlest, barely perceptible inclination for that thing. Hope is too powerful a word to be thrown around so. Thus, hope expresses a real yearning for the fulfillment of dreams or desires.

Now, it is also true that one can hope for possible or impossible things, to their satisfaction or their peril. No doubt, you all have experienced joy when your earnest hopes have been realized. We often take this remarkable feeling for granted. And when these desires hold virtue, this emotion tastes all the sweeter, not causing pain or moral degradation. But, however, when reality shatters those hopes, cherished in an obstinate disregard for the truth, disappointment rears its ugly head. On top of this, unhealthy hopes, which only increase a person’s desire for sin, can cause even more pain to the host, in the form of guilt. This, my friends, is why we must be reasonable with our hoping. We must learn to recognize when hope is false or harmful, in order to avoid great grief. And so, hope can prove reasonable or unreasonable, both illuminating and dangerous.

All hope does, however, look beyond

the current reality, whether disregarding it entirely or focusing on the possible. While at times radical, as discussed above, this relentlessness which describes our beautiful Hope can also paint, with a curving brush-tip, much goodness in the soul. Just as gazing at the silver-lining of a storm cloud at night inspires the weary traveler to seek the rising of the bright moon, so the hopeful can see the possible and venture to follow it, despite their dark circumstances. This hope builds endurance, emboldening one to persevere and maintain positivity. But perhaps the most admirable thing about hope is that it can lead to trust. In my life, trust has often provided a source of reassurance. Though hope is not certain, with a simple prayer of trust, it can transform into something rooted in Someone infinitely certain, Who holds a perfect will for our lives. Therefore, surrender your dreams to God, Who says to “ask and it will be given to you” (from Matthew 7:7-12, NIV) according to His will. Thus, hope relentlessly defies reality, whether radically or not, in a way that can lead to faith in God, Who can make even seemingly impossible things possible.

And so, hope describes a desire, whether tangible and virtuous or not, for future things, even though circumstances may predict otherwise. Hope does not describe something vague and meaningless, but the realization of all that is possible, a light able to guide us through dark forests from day to day. Hope is truly the natural result of the deeply impressed desires that God has placed inside of us for higher things. It ultimately draws our eyes to God in a search for goodness. It ultimately draws our eyes to God in a search for goodness. Thus, I encourage you not to ignore virtuous hopes, but to hope in God for the things of God and wait to see what He might reveal to you. Therefore,

“May the God of

Hope

fill you with all

Joy & Peace

as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”

(ROMANS 15:13, NIV)

A Letter on a February Day

By Abi Leigh

Mornings are hard, like the cold
wood floors I land on.
A stern February sun sifts
through cracks in cream-colored
curtains. My heavy hands shrug
a heavy green jacket onto my shoulders.

It's time to go to school.

Climbing carpeted stairs
to my tall metal locker,

I notice its aluminum door,
just barely ajar.

With quizzical brows I open it wide,
to find— front and center—
a letter!

A neatly folded, cursive letter, with my
nickname

written on its face.

Swooping, sloping, slanted letters
pay homage to the dedication
of a friend who wrote me a poem
for friendship's sake.

Doodles of daisies and sketches of snowflakes

playfully inhabit the margins—

a reminder that my friend will write
another poem, and tomorrow a
new letter will wait for me again.

With quick hands and a hidden smile

I place the letter in my pocket
and close my locker door

while that February sun
warms the corners of the hallway.

CARL SANDBURG POETRY CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTIONS

The Boy Who Waits

By Isabel de la Peña

A boy with scraped elbows and brown oxfords
With his head on his knees and his arms wrapped around his legs—

He waits very patiently, seated on the edge of the world

With nothing but a melancholy frown on his face.

A rain of colorful stars beats down on his back.

You might say, "He should be glad about this, why is the boy sad?"

After all, the stars are colorful—

They entertain him.

But brightly colored stars are not enough for a little boy

Who awaits the future and the world to come—

The boy alone on his planet.

BOB & WHEEL

POEMS

The Honors World Literature
Class wrote "bob and wheel"
poems, a Medieval poetic form.
They were inspired by Sir
Gawain and the Green Knight.

Blue Ridge Mountains

By Sophie Robbins

Raised above the abysmal earth in admirable allure
Is a stunning silent sanctuary surrounded by serene sights
Where the winds blow wild with worldly wonder
And the birds with strong breaths sing songs of sweet serenity.
Where the trees bend and bow their branches in the tender breeze
As their leaves fall faintly towards the forest floor.
Great rivers run rapid and rage with rough current
And steady streams trickle on with thoughtful tranquility.
The peaks push their points up into the peaceful sky,
And the crests captivate God's creative capabilities.
These are the beautiful bends bejeweled with brilliant blue,
The towering summits tainted with tantalizing shades of green.

All in all

These magnificent ranges
That stand so tall,
Experience many changes
As the world begins to fall.

The "Phase" of the Man

By Emma Mae Stover

Every single night, after the sun sets, the moon comes into sight.
The face of the man may be mysteriously mismatched every night.
He waxes and wanes wonderfully and whimsically.
Sometimes he hides, he might be half-whole or harvest,
but what he may bloom to be, he is the berth of the light.
The course carefully begins with a completely dark and concealed face,
slowly and steadily making its way through the set cycle.
The lovely moon slowly lusters little by little,
until the moon meets its maximum magnitude of light.
Gleaming, glowing, and glaring, the moon lightens the gentle earth.
The man's beaming face brightens the beautiful earth, but not for long.
Day after day, the light disappears and dissipates,
becoming the faint, feeble face of the fearful man it was
once before.

The man slowly alters,
every night and evermore.
So look and don't falter—
watch him change like he has before.

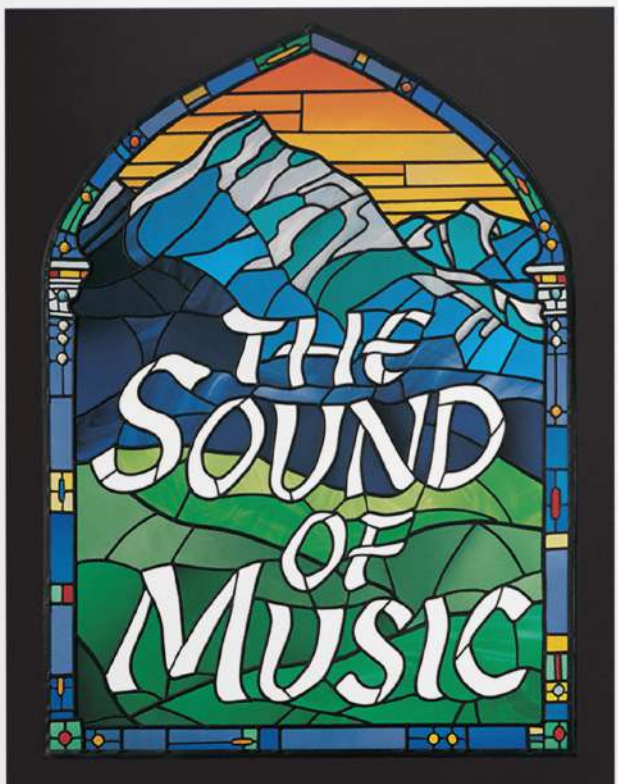


"When researching which stage adaptation of the beloved Louisa May Alcott's book to do, I was charmed by Thomas Hischak's ability to make his script fit any space regardless of size or budget. Having a small stage ourselves, we created our very own black box set. Theatre Veritas students' had an opportunity to experience what it's like to bring art to the stage with minimal concepts and an up close engagement with the audience. They did an outstanding job bringing this American classic to life!"

- Director Chelsea St. John Wade

"What an honor and responsibility to direct and be a part of what is arguably one of the BEST musicals of all times! Theatre Veritas' The Sound of Music was an enchanting experience for all involved. Every role was prayerfully assigned and each and every student embodied their characters perfectly. This show warmed audience and all participant hearts alike. God's hand and blessings overflowed and this show exceeded our own expectations. Bravo, Theatre Veritas!"

- Director Chelsea St. John Wade





GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Each Spring, we look forward to hosting our beloved VCA grandparents on campus for a day of community and special memories made. It brings immense joy to all – to see our students' faces light up with excitement on this special occasion. It begins with faculty serving our special guests breakfast to be enjoyed during the Grammar School program. This includes performances of Latin recitations, poems, patriotic songs, Bible verses, and more. From there, students enjoy showing their grandparents their classrooms, artwork, and introducing them to their teachers. It's always a highlight of the school year at Veritas, and this year was no exception!



Our Veritas Warrior athletic teams enjoyed a great year of competition. At Veritas, we strive to honor God through our competition. We do this by trying to exhibit a Christ-like attitude, and working to compete to the best of our ability. Our teams enjoyed many successes, and our athletes achieved some tremendous individual awards. Here is a rundown of our year:

CSAA State Champions:
Varsity Girls Soccer

CSAA State Runner Ups:
Varsity Girls Basketball
Varsity Girls Soccer
Varsity Girls Cross Country
JV Girls Volleyball

WPAC Conference Champions:
Varsity Girls Volleyball
Varsity Boys Basketball
Varsity Girls Basketball
Varsity Girls Soccer
Varsity Golf
JV Girls Volleyball

Undefeated Season:
MS Golf

Conference Player of the Year:
Maggie Clayton (Girls Volleyball)
Hannah Stage (Girls Cross Country)
Ashton Dillon (Boys Basketball)
Brooke Miller (Girls Basketball)
Anna Randles (Girls Soccer)
Emma Stover (Golf)

All-State:
Caleb Randles (Boys Soccer)
Charlie Brake (Boys Soccer)
Hannah Stage (Girls Cross Country)
Olive Wilsey (Girls Cross Country)
Brooke Miller (Girls Basketball)
Kaitlyn Miller (Girls Basketball)
Hannah Stage (Girls Soccer)
Brooke Miller (Girls Soccer)
Kaitlyn Miller (Girls Soccer)
Anna Randles (Girls Soccer)
Emma Stover (Golf)

All-Conference:
Maggie Clayton (Girls Volleyball)
Kaitlyn Miller (Girls Volleyball)
Caleb Randles (Boys Soccer)
Charlie Brake (Boys Soccer)
Hannah Stage (Girls Cross Country)
Ashton Dillon (Boys Basketball)
Brooke Miller (Girls Basketball)
Kaitlyn Miller (Girls Basketball)
Sloan Nichols (Girls Basketball)
Lydia Moffitt (Girls Soccer)
Kaitlyn Miller (Girls Soccer)
Anna Randles (Girls Soccer)
Emma Stover (Golf)

John Dieterly will continue his academic and athletic career at Piedmont University, where he will play Men's Lacrosse.



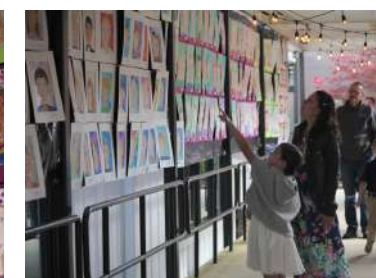
NIGHT OF THE ARTS

Night of the Arts at Veritas Christian Academy is an enchanting school-wide community event that is one of the most anticipated events on the VCA calendar! This year, over 700 pieces of student artwork (about 3/student) were on display throughout campus. One of the most impressive galleries was the self-portrait wall, which included a self-portrait painted by each student, beginning with the three-year-old class.

Along with beautiful artwork showcased at every turn, there were also live performances by Theatre Veritas's, demonstrations by Mr. Argento's music classes, and the Rhetoric School Praise Band played instruments and sang songs for all to enjoy throughout the breezeway.

A new highlight this year was the refreshment and baked good station, which was baked and prepared by our logic school Culinary Art Class.

Goodness, truth, beauty...and community fun were experienced with and in every sense at Night of the Arts 2023.



ASSOCIATION OF
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN
 SCHOOLS

During the past two years Veritas Christian Academy has undertaken the task of changing accrediting associations. "Why did we make this change from a broad accreditation to a specific group?" The short answer is that as a Classical Christian school, we desire to be fully accredited with the most recognized organization that only provides accreditation to schools distinctly like ours. Just as we seek specialists for health reasons (we would not go see an eye doctor for a sprained ankle), we have sought accreditation with an organization with a specialty.

There are a number of accrediting organizations for Christian schools, but only one accrediting organization for Classical Christian schools. That unique and well established organization is the Association of Classical Christian Schools. We are extremely encouraged that we have recently been granted full accreditation with ACCS.

Key to our decision to change accrediting associations is the social drift that occurs with organizations. As the world goes, so do many organizations.

All accrediting organizations are shaped by social, ideological, spiritual, and political agendas. The spirit of the age is very present in the mainstream accrediting bodies. The social and political priorities are present. This means that schools accredited by these groups will also have the social and political priorities strongly made known in the curriculum and school cultures. We are now accredited by an organization that has educational roots much deeper than our current social moment.

As the only Classical Christian school in this area fully accredited by the Association of Classical Christian Schools, we are honored to join hundreds of other Christ-centered Classical schools. Not only do we have external validation that we are a top-form Classical Christian school, we have constant accountability to stay true to our mission, and we have access to other member-schools to share resources as we continue to grow and mature in our commitment to Classical Christian education.



ON BEING
BLESSED

AND BEING A
BLESSING

Holy Scripture is filled with references to blessings. The God of the Bible is a blessing God. There are so many references to those who offer a blessing and those who receive blessings. From the beginning of the Bible, God blesses His creation and His creatures. He speaks well on His created order and His creation becomes a means by which God blesses the pinnacle of His creation--Adam and Eve.

God blesses all those within His creation, "For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt. 5:45), God is particularly gracious to those who enter into covenant with Him. It is clear from the Bible that many of God's blessings are material in nature. God speaks well to His faithful followers but gives much more than more food, shelter, and land.

In His infinite kindness, God provides identity. In our current

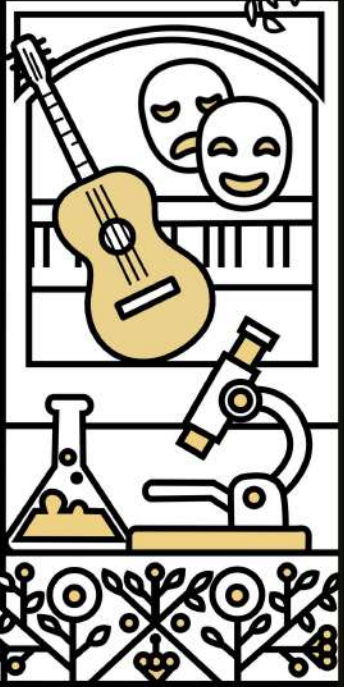
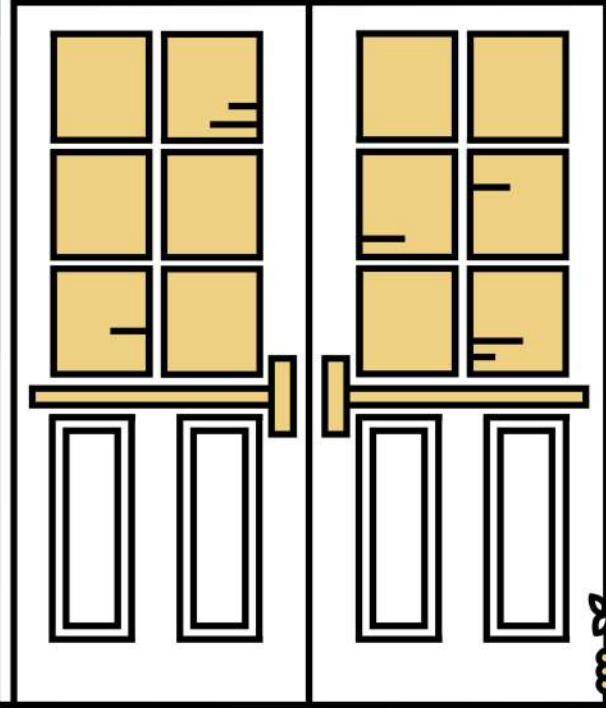
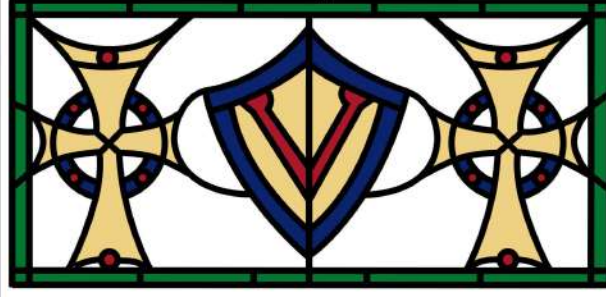
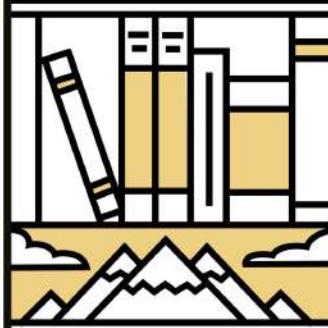
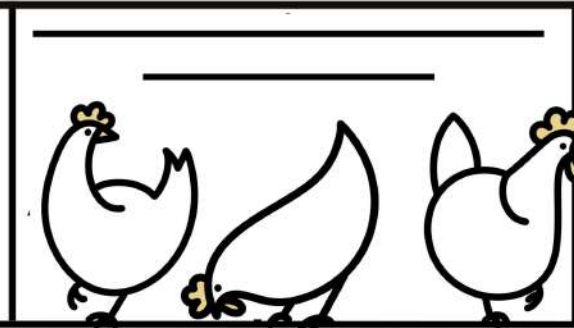
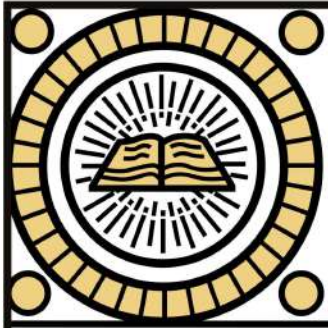
world that has lost its mind and soul regarding identity, God graciously makes us HIS people. We have a name and are recognized by God and are wonderfully blessed with a likeness to God.

In Scripture, a blessing is often well placed words that are a stark contrast to words that tear down and destroy. It is worth noting that in Classical literature, especially in Virgil's *Aeneid* rumor is portrayed as a "filthy goddess," and declared "the swiftest of evils" always going about spreading her vile words. One might think that the best counter to destructive false words that tear apart people and places would be the simple truth. Would not truth, plainly spoken, bring such evil words to an end? While one may hope so, it seems that the better counter to gossip is not silence, or truth, but blessing. God has blessed Veritas beyond measure with all of our current families. So many people who praise the Lord and

encourage one another. We have so many families who speak well of one another and speak well to one another. Veritas is blessed to be a community of like-minded people who clearly love God and love one another. It is a blessing being part of such an edifying group.

The year 2022 was filled with blessings from God and we praise and thank Him for all of his good and perfect gifts. We humans long for the state of blessedness or wellness. Sadly, many seek this wellness in various ways, but God bestows His blessings in His wise and merciful manner.

As we move through the year 2023 together, with one another and the Lord, let us diligently seek ways to be a blessing to one another. It is evident that God desires to bless us and a key way He does this is through His people. May the Lord bless us all this year and may He use us to bless man.



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