



Purpose of the Veritas Academy Rhetoric School

The purpose of the Rhetoric School is to provide the Savannah community an educational opportunity for high school age students that is Christian, classical, and covenantal.

Mission of the Veritas Academy Rhetoric School

The mission of the Rhetoric School is to teach and encourage students to think, speak, and act Christianly, and to seek, discern, and apply Truth to all of their life by providing an education of excellence that is Christ-centered, classical, and covenantal. In short, to produce students who are wise and eloquent.

Vision of the Veritas Academy Rhetoric School

To be Savannah's foremost Center for Classical Christian Learning by providing an education of excellence that is Christ-centered, classical, and covenantal. We seek to graduate young men and women who are scholars who love to learn, readers who love books, leaders who love the family, citizens who love their nation, members of the Body of Christ who love the church, and missionaries who love the lost: who are equipped to extend God's kingdom by spreading the gospel, transforming culture, and pursuing Truth, beauty, and righteousness all their days.

Rhetoric School Advisory Board

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VERITAS ACADEMY

RHETORIC SCHOOL



CLASSICAL ❖ CHRISTIAN
COVENANTAL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is a rhetoric school? Simply stated, as the capstone to the classical trivium a rhetoric school is a high school. Rhetoric, properly defined, is the art of speaking and writing clearly, eloquently, and persuasively. When this “subject” is taken to represent a stage of education (i.e., high school), the implication is that rhetoric becomes the emphasis of all learning which takes place during this stage. This means students in a rhetoric school learn to present their knowledge truthfully and eloquently. The curriculum of a rhetoric school centers around a study of the Western tradition of history, literature, philosophy, and theology. As students read the “Great Books” of the West and thus enter into the “Great Conversation,” they are challenged to participate in that conversation themselves through discussion, written essay, and oral presentation. The goal is to produce a student who is, as Quintilian stated, “A good man speaking well.”

What is unique about the Veritas Academy Rhetoric School? As students in the Veritas Academy Rhetoric School study and engage the Western tradition of history, literature, philosophy, and theology, they reckon with the truth that God is the author of history and has a definitive purpose for His world. Therefore, they study the ideas and ideals that have dominated different time periods of Western development in the light of the incarnate Christ and the Gospel message. This “theological” approach to learning and truth is also employed in the study of math and science since God is the creator of the natural world with its order, symmetry, and beauty. The aim in such an approach to education is to form and shape students who think Christianly about God, themselves, and the world around them, always growing in their understanding of God’s purpose for humanity and human civilization. The end result is a true liberal arts education, producing free citizens fit for life and leadership in a free society.

How does the Rhetoric School compare to other Christian high schools in terms of vision, philosophy, and cost? As a Christian school we share with others the goal of graduating young men and women who think Christianly, serve God faithfully, and are equipped for leadership in both the Church and the world. As a classical school, however, we differ in terms of how we strive to achieve this goal. In moving away from a modern philosophy of education and embracing a classical philosophy, we make it our aim to produce graduates who are characterized by the twin virtues of wisdom and eloquence. Our favorable tuition and related costs fall in the middle to lower end of the Savannah private school spectrum and are designed to cover only what your student needs.

Are there any financial aid incentives related to the Rhetoric School? Similar to the rest of Veritas Academy, some financial aid is available and given on a case-by-case basis. In addition, because of a new program allowing GA state income tax dollars to be directed to private schools, the Veritas Academy Rhetoric School is able to offer some level of scholarship aid to students coming from public schools.

What if my child has no background in classical education? As the only classical school in Savannah, we understand the concern of some parents that their child may or may not find success at the Rhetoric School level having had little to no background in Latin (core aspect of classical learning) or the Omnibus program (our History, Literature and Theology curriculum). Thus, we have put together a *Summer Latin Program* and are currently completing an *Omnibus Primer*, both of which are specifically designed to allow a student from a non-classical background to transition successfully into the Veritas Academy Rhetoric School.



I have concerns that the academics may be too difficult for my child. What advice can you offer? We believe that God endows each of us with differing levels of aptitude with respect to different subject areas in the same way that He gives each of us different talents and gifts. Thus, in any given class, some students earn A's while others may get B's, C's or even F's. Since the goal of education must always be knowledge *and* wisdom, grades are merely an indicator of student progress and do not represent a student's intrinsic worth. While we recognize that this approach runs counter to the cultural norm, we recommend that you join us in adopting it. Our curriculum is rigorous because we strongly believe the Lord expects us to strive for excellence in education...and that you as parents expect it as well. This does not mean that we cater to the gifted student. Rather, we aim to reach all levels of learners, whether their performance is above average, average, or below average.

What about extra-curricular activities? As a Classical and Christian School we place a high priority on students being *exposed to* and *trained in* the fine arts of Western culture. It is our aim to create an excellent fine arts program that will include music, drama and visual art, each in turn drawing the student's attention to eternal Beauty. In addition, we believe in the developmental value of competitive team sports. Thus, we are currently working towards providing athletic opportunities for our Rhetoric Students that will include but are not limited to the following: volleyball, basketball, swimming, rowing, tennis, golf, riflery and lacrosse. Finally, we are committed to cultivating a social atmosphere at the Rhetoric School consisting of clubs, educational trips, and other programming designed for social enhancement.

Are you accredited? Yes, we are accredited by the *Georgia Accreditation Commission (GAC)* at the highest level possible. That being said, we remain independent of any arbitrary regulations that are counter-productive to our mission as a Rhetoric School.

Will this ensure that your students are eligible for the HOPE Scholarship? Yes. Due to our Accreditation with the *GAC* any student graduating from the Veritas Academy Rhetoric School is automatically qualified for the *Georgia HOPE Scholarship*.

Do you have anyone on staff to facilitate the college search and application process? We currently have a volunteer Veritas parent of two Rhetoric School students who has been working for several years now compiling information on many of the best colleges throughout the country. She works to bring in college placement personnel from various colleges to speak to our parents and students on a regular basis. Such colleges of interest include: *Hillsdale College (MI)*, *Grove City College (PA)*, *Gardner-Webb University (NC)*, *Princeton University (NJ)*, as well some of the larger state schools.

Have you graduated any students? If so, what colleges are they currently attending? The class of 2011 will be the first graduating class of the Veritas Academy Rhetoric School. They are currently looking into colleges such as Princeton University, Furman University, and the University of Virginia.

We live in Richmond Hill and the expense of gas and driving time is heavy. Are there any carpools? While the Rhetoric School does not offer any transportation, our office staff is glad to help you find other Rhetoric School families in your area who may be interested in carpooling.

