

### **The Rhetoric School: Eleventh Grade Overview**

Students in grades 9-12 continue to hone their dialectic skills while focusing on developing the rhetorical art of persuasive speech and writing with the goal of displaying the glory of God. Through their application of rhetoric in all subjects, students learn how to speak and write with eloquence, imagination, beauty and persuasion. Lab reports, literature papers, exam essays, and oral presentations all make use of rhetorical skill. In this culminating stage of their Veritas education, students apply the lens of reading and writing rhetorically across all subject disciplines, with the aim of becoming articulate and winsome Christians.

### **11th Grade Trip: Italy**

Date: Spring Semester

As a final, summative relocated classroom experience, the twelfth graders spend two weeks abroad exploring multiple historic trajectories deeply relevant to their studies at Veritas. Beginning in Rome the students interact with the roots of classical antiquity where they walk through academic, economic, and militaristic spaces dating back to the 4th century, before walking the paths of Cicero and Nero in the ancient Forum. This timeline is picked up in Florence where the Renaissance is put on full display. The city of Dante is also home to Michelangelo's David and Galileo's telescope, and the students are immersed in an interconnected web of scientific, architectural, cultural, and religious histories. All of these spaces provide an occasion for embodied learning at its best while the students engage affectively, aesthetically, and rhetorically with the lively world around them.

Simultaneously, the students are attending to their own rich theological history and inheritance as they see the development of the Christian church from its 1st century infancy to the very site of Luther's own pre-Reformation anxiety, St. Peter's Basilica.

### **Required and Recommended Events for Our Parent Community**

- **Peacemakers Seminar (required for new parents)**  
Learning the importance of how Veritas deals with issues of conflict in its classrooms and community.
- **Faith & Culture Seminars (required)**  
Once in the Fall and once in the Spring, the seminar addresses an important topic related to parenting or classical education, usually with a distinguished speaker.
- **Logic School Coffee (required)**  
Meaningful, open time to share with other logic school parents, teachers, and administration about the joys and concerns of upper school.
- **Open House (recommended)**  
An opportunity to peruse through sample works of students, listen to student demonstrations, view curriculum, and speak with teachers about relevant topics.

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### **Great Ideas I**

This course focuses on the development of philosophical thought from the ancient to medieval period. This course challenges students to critically engage, learn, and admire some of the great works that have influenced the Christian faith. Furthermore, students will develop their own views on the all-encompassing question of what it truly means to live a good and happy life, which was the utmost important question for this period, and each of our lives.

Some of the works read are: Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, Nicomachean *Ethics*, Lucretius' *On the Nature of Things*, Augustine's *City of God*, Marcus Aurelius: *Meditations*, Epictetus, Epicurus, Boethius' *The Consolation of Philosophy*, Augustine's *Confessions*, and the *City of God*, Anselm's *Prosologion* Bonaventure's *Journey to God*, and Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*, Nicholas of Cusa's *On learned Ignorance*.

## ELEVENTH GRADE COURSES

Students will identify the central ideas of metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics as formulated from the Classical and Medieval period by focusing on the western tradition's most outstanding thinkers, analyzing how these ideas compare with those of Christianity.

Students will identify, interact with, and ultimately refute the most pernicious ideas (e.g., materialism, hedonism, egalitarianism, etc.), while finding derivations, resurrections, and applications of the great ideas in the history of civilization, thus taking every thought captive to obey Christ.

### **Wisdom Track: The Sermon on the Mount and the Psalms**

This will continue to emphasize strong integration with Great Ideas I with an emphasis on the good life by examining the Sermon on the Mount. We will continually practice and examine the teaching on the sermon on the mount and read figures such as Dallas Willard/Dietrich Bonhoeffer/and others on the sermon on the mount. We will continue by also cultivating the life of prayer in relation to the memorization/singing/prayer. As with the others, there is a large emphasis on application and continuing the virtue journals with weekly feedback from the teacher.

### **Ancient & Medieval Literature**

At 11th grade, students return to ancient & medieval literature, but from the larger perspective of seeing ancient literature of Western Civilization as a key facet to our student's proper understanding of the current world in which they live. The course will give the students understanding of the world (with its impotent religion and despair, as well as foreshadowing) into which Christ came. Students will also integrate these literature texts through their study of theology, Great Ideas, and history in order to understand the foundations of Western culture, to see the universal dilemma of life, examine how Christianity provides a solution, and prepare the students for their Capstone Italy Trip experience.

Students will read "On Reading Old Books," *Odyssey*, *Greek Tragedies*, *Aeneid*, *Metamorphosis*, *Till We Have Faces*, *Inferno*, *Henry V*.

## ELEVENTH GRADE COURSES

### **Rhetoric III**

Rhetoric III and IV are intended to foster the student's ability to pursue an area of interest, research it thoroughly, synthesize a conclusion, and defend a thesis orally and in writing (Textbook: Rhetoric Thesis). These courses each have a general focus area from which students will be exposed to broad categories of thought. The student will then work independently with the teacher to develop an area of interest and focus their study in this area. Classroom activities will include a broad overview of the subject area of individual work with the teacher. The objective is to enrich the student's understanding and wisdom while providing him with practice in oral and written defense.

For content, Rhetoric III will be focused on civics. It covers political science and comparative governmental systems with an emphasis on American government. Students will examine different hypotheses about the man in his natural state without government, and how these different hypotheses can lead to a different philosophies of governance. Students will also analyze which governments are most conducive to creating just societies and which are least, and compare, contrast and critique the major models of governance from a Biblical perspective.

### **Mock Trial**

As part of the Rhetoric course, students will participate in the Orange County Mock Trial competition sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. This is a summative experience that brings together grammar, logic, and rhetoric skills in the context of a county-wide competition using a hypothetical trial case. Students play the role of a witness, an attorney, or a combination of the two, on either the prosecution or defense or both sides of the case. Students grow not only in their public speaking skills and a close knowledge of the great trial system in America, but also the confidence of speaking with grace and truth in the public arena.

### **Hermeneutics**

This course seeks to continue to emphasize the centrality of Scripture for living and thinking by examining the best methods interpreting biblical passages in their historical, cultural, grammatical, and theological

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context. There will be an emphasis on also understanding how all Scripture points to the living Christ and ultimately finds its meaning and fulfillment in Christ. Lastly, throughout the course there will be ample practice and reflection on how to apply the Scriptures to one's life and how to consistently apply the word of truth to all areas of life. The Class will culminate in the student's ability to properly handle all genres of Scripture.

### **Pre-Calculus**

Students will be able to define terms, discuss concepts, and perform operations with values and variables as trigonometric and introductory calculus skills are developed. Students will build upon their foundations for expertise in advanced algebra, advanced geometry, trigonometry, and introductory calculus, yielding proficiency in useful mathematical skills as well as preparing students for additional challenging mathematics courses in the future. Topics include the theory of functions (polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric and their inverses), trigonometric graphs, identities and equations, matrices, conic sections, polar forms, binomial theorem, sequences and series.

### **AP Calculus AB (Accelerated Track)**

Following a condensed, intensive review of the algebra, trigonometry, and analytic geometry topics necessary for success in Calculus, this course enables students to have sound understanding of the concepts delineated in the Calculus AB Topic Outline in the AP Calculus course description from the College Board. It is our goal to have all students take the AP Calculus AB Exam in May at the end of the academic year. This course will also enable students to appreciate the beauty of mathematics as it relates how we can use calculus to describe what we observe in the world around us. This helps students to see and appreciate how God has given us this tool to help us not only to discover His creation but to ultimately to discover the Creator, Himself. It will also provide a strong foundation for all STEM majors in college.

### **Physics**

This course will cover the basics about the universe around us and how it works. Students will learn the basics of how objects move and behave in

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both one and two dimensional space and how to apply Newton's Laws. Students will also learn to analyze both static and dynamic forces acting on an object. This course also covers the study of periodic motions, geometric optics, electricity and magnetism. Building upon previous science courses, students now gain even deeper insight into the wonder of creation as they study how things work. Students will start to discover the grand design of how things work in this universe and that all truths and discoveries seem to point towards the great Designer of this universe, God Himself.

### **House Leadership**

Juniors and Seniors experience various aspects of leadership by participating as a member of the House Council, which guides and organizes the House System, which consists of four Houses (Alfred, Beowulf, Charlemagne, David), each with members from K-12th grade. House leaders are responsible for envisioning, designing, executing, and reflecting on the weekly house events as they use the gifts and skills God has entrusted them with. This rigorous and student-centered training model deeply equips students with the practical and ethical skills necessary for leading the churches, schools, organizations, communities and families of our future.