

The Rhetoric School: Tenth 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.

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.

American History

The six general goals of American History are:

Students will

1. Understand a Christian (or providential) view of history, and learn how God sovereignly guides history.
2. Interact frequently with primary sources, especially those from the canon of Western Civilization.
3. Practice close reading and critically evaluating reading material.
4. Identify distinct movements and patterns in history, and understand how worldviews, ideas, and cultures, shape one another.
5. Know a general timeline of historical events from the birth of America to the present.
6. Students will identify and emulate great qualities of historical figures, and incorporate Biblical precept and historical example in pursuit of godliness.

In the Rhetoric stage (9-12th), students build on their understanding of the who, what, when, where, how, and why of history, and express, orally and in written form, their understanding and evaluation of history.

In American History, students will identify the significance of and the connections between the major figures and events of American history. They will recognize the relationship between faithfulness to God's law and liberty as it is manifested in the history of the United States. The students will be able to articulate the various worldviews that have dominated particular eras of American history and how they have shaped those eras.

American Literature

In the 10th grade, the focus turns more on integration of literature into life. While continuing to deepen their understanding of the various worldviews and philosophies underlying each author, students will begin to solidify their understanding of the Christian worldview as it is expressed in various literature that will shape their convictions, imaginations, and vision for the future. Students will read *The Scarlet*

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Letter, Uncle Tom's Cabin, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Moby Dick, The Red Badge of Courage, The Great Gatsby, The Old Man and the Sea, as well as representative American poems.

Rhetoric II

This series of courses in Rhetoric represent the pinnacle of classical education. The art of rhetoric will enable students to communicate the truths of the gospel and the world in a clear, beautiful manner for the glory of God and the edification of hearers. It will prepare students to surpass their peers in critical thinking and communication.

In Rhetoric II, students will continue to learn the classical rhetorical tools with a heavier emphasis on developing style, memory and delivery. In speaking, students will develop the three modes of speech: ethos, logos, and pathos, as well as the various types of speech: extemporaneous, narrative, persuasive, etc. For writing, using *The Lost Tools of Writing II*, Progymnasmata tools, *Elements of Style*, and *Grace and Style*, and Warriner's English Grammar, students will engage in various types of writings (journal essays, essay question answers, oral presentations, and research paper) to hone their skills of persuasion. Students will also be introduced to more rhetorical tropes which will aid them in both understanding and expressing the glory of God in literature.

Debate IV

Students will participate in the debate team in preparation to compete in the Orange County Debate League. In the first semester, students will hone their debate skills in class, and in the second, students will participate in the the OCDL debate competition.

Doctrine

While Church History exposed students to the questions and lives of Christians through the ages and how we seek to apply that information into our lives, The aim of this class is to build out in a more systematic manner, using Scripture as the authoritative source, the exposition of the Christian faith. Students will The following major doctrines will be considered: the nature of God, the Nature of man, Christology, the study of salvation and it's application to man, doctrine of the church, and

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eschatology. Special emphasis will be placed on reasoning out logical conclusions from Scripture, defend their conclusions based on sound principles of Scriptural interpretation, reading of primary sources of Church Fathers, and application and Christian Living.

Wisdom Track. The Parables of Jesus in contrast to Vices. Continued emphasis on Christian practices

This will continue the emphasis on the cultivation of virtue and wisdom in examining the teachings of Jesus on what it means to live the good life in relation to God and others. We will also contrast this with educating the students on the 7 vices as ways that we do not relate properly in relation to God and others. As with the others, there is a large emphasis on application and continuing the virtue journals with weekly feedback from the teacher.

Latin IV

At Veritas, students learn Latin to 1) read the great works in Latin, 2) refine the grasp of the English language, 3) better appreciate English literature 4) better understand the source of western civilization, 5) sharpen the mind, 6) set the platform from which to learn other languages.

In 10th grade, students read and translate selections from the unabridged texts of Vergil's *Aeneid*, Julius Caesar's *De Bello Gallico*, and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, with the possibility of others.

To facilitate conversation and composition, students read through chapter 13-24 of *Lingua Latina, Familia Romana*.

*8th-10th graders who have never taken Latin are required to take zero period Latin, which condenses Latin I and Latin II into one class.

Chemistry

A study of matter that will cover from basic building blocks of matter, their structure, how they change and react to form other kinds of matter. Students will learn about atomic and molecular structures, different types of chemical reactions, different phases of matter, thermodynamics,

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chemical equilibrium, and kinetics. By studying chemistry, students will begin to gain insight into the wonders of creation. Students will also read more about the lives of Christian scientists who were able to discover things of creation that led to the development of modern science because of their faith and theology. Students will begin to see how science and faith are not at odds with each other. They will continue to learn to formulate and refine scientific arguments and evaluate scientific claims.

Algebra 2

A study that builds on the prior knowledge of Algebra 1 and some material from Geometry. Students will be identifying, simplifying, expanding, solving, and graphing algebraic expressions. Algebra 2 allows students to begin analyzing algebraic structures from a functions-based perspective, while also providing students with the algebraic tools necessary for mastering future math courses such as AP Calculus. Students will also begin to see more applications of mathematics in discovering God's world using science such as logarithms and exponential growth and decay. Students will be also required to more frequently explain their ideas and concepts both orally and in writing which will help them to grow in their fluency regarding the language of mathematics.

Pre- Calculus (Accelerated Track)

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.

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