



The Lion's Roster

A Weekly Newsletter of The Veritas Classical Christian School

Volume 3, Issue 29
Friday, April 9, 2009

ARTS DAY PROGRAM

Friday, April 24th – 12:30 p.m. – Art Fair/1:30 p.m. - Program

The schedule for this year's program will be slightly different from previous years. **The Fellowship Hall will be open for parents and grandparents to enjoy the artwork on display from 12:30-1:30 p.m. At 1:30 p.m. the music program will begin in the sanctuary.** At the end of the program, parents may pick up their students from their classrooms. **We encourage parents and grandparents to join us for the festive celebration of the arts.**

WHAT IS CLASSICAL EDUCATION? – Part II

From "The Classical Teacher" by Peter Kreeft

The Importance of Latin and Greek

Grammar means the structure of language, both in general and in particular; and "the particular" means both a foreign language and your native tongue, the King's English, which is also a foreign language to many of today's teens. **If you do not know another language you will not appreciate English, and you will simply never become a good writer, for two reasons:**

First of all, you cannot write good English unless you appreciate English, and you cannot appreciate anything except by contrast with its other, and other languages are that other.

Second, a good writer is a master not only of English but of language itself, but you cannot rise to the knowledge of the universal structures and principles of language itself unless you begin with at least two particular languages (and preferably more than two) from which you can abstract those general principles.

Among non-English languages two stand out as especially useful: Greek and Latin; and this also has two reasons. **The first reason is the historical fact that they are the roots of Western civilization,** both because of what they are in themselves, the two most beautiful specimens of language ever invented, and because **all the great books of premodern times except for the Old Testament were written in either Greek or Latin.**

The second reason is that these two languages are so highly and rationally structured with such a good infection of inflection, that to learn them is to exercise the mind more lithely and acrobatically, to give the mind the power to play with words more fully and elaborately, than can be done in any modern language. I can tell, 9 times out of 10, whether a student has studied Greek or Latin simply by reading his English. **Great stylists like**

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- ☞ **GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER MONDAY – NO SCHOOL**
- ☞ **UNIFORM STORE – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH – 2:30-3:00 P.M.**
- ☞ **CHICK-FIL-A TUCKERNUCK PLAZA SPIRIT NIGHT – THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH – 5:30-7:30 – COME OUT TO SUPPORT VERITAS!**
- ☞ **9TH GRADE TRIP TO GETTYSBURG AND MESSIAH COLLEGE– APRIL 16-18TH**
- ☞ **TEDDY BEAR CLINIC FIELD TRIP – KINDERGARTEN CLASS – MONDAY, APRIL 20 & 21 – ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL**
- ☞ **ARTS DAY – FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH – 12:30-2:30 P.M. - ALL STUDENTS WILL PRESENT – INVITE PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS**
- ☞ **STANDARDIZED TESTING WEEK – GRADES 3-8 – MONDAY, APRIL 27- FRIDAY, MAY 1**
- ☞ **EARLY DISMISSAL FOR ALL GRADES – FRIDAY, MAY 1ST – 11: 30 A.M. – TEACHER WORK DAY IN AFTERNOON**





Cardinal Newman and C. S. Lewis could never have tamed and mastered English and made it flow and prance and sing and juggle so effortlessly and obediently if they had not first mastered Latin and Greek, which were light heavyweight sparring partners to prepare them for lightweight boxing in English.

The mastery of the grammar of these languages **enables you to master the rhetoric, the beautiful and powerful use of them**, rather as understanding a cookbook enables you to cook a delicious meal, or as understanding the principles of physics enables you to apply them in technology.

Wisdom is both the last and most important part of the subject matter of the curriculum and also the end of it all. Of course, the logic meant here is not the empty, merely mathematical, computer logic found in modern logic texts, but the logic of ordinary language, which begins not with quantitative symbols, **but with qualitative words, which need to be defined, and concepts, which need to be understood.** And the philosophy meant here is not the technical, academic exercises in "publish or perish" "scholarship" that fill those dreary professional philosophical journals today, **but the living, literal love and pursuit of wisdom, especially wisdom about values and virtues**, the kind of thing Plato did in his dialogues—an enterprise most modern professional philosophers, alas, have completely abandoned.

STANDARDIZED TESTING WEEK

April 27-May 1, 2009 – Grades 3-8



We will continue offering annual standardized tests to students in grades 3-8. The goal of standardized testing in a classical school is to **have some objective method of evaluating student progress.** No test is perfect nor designed around a classical curriculum; however there

is a strong movement among classical schools to give the ERB Test (Educational Records Bureau). The ERB is more in line with our student population and academic rigor. **An additional advantage to moving to the ERB is that we will receive norms that will compare our students' achievement with that of the best public and independent schools in the country rather than benchmarking against local public schools.** We will now be able to compare students' scores with the top public schools and the more established independent schools. In short, there will be more differentiation between students who score in the top quartile nationally as a majority of our students do.

www.erblearn.org.

VPA CONNECTIONS

PARENT PRAYER TIMES Please join us as we lift up the needs of the Veritas Community to the Lord. As always, younger siblings are welcome to attend with their parents.

- **Thursdays – 8:05-8:30 a.m. – Siblings are welcome**

DRAMA PRACTICE

Friday, April 17th during activities time.

MUSIC PRACTICES

YMC – Mondays – 7:15 -7:50 a.m.

YMC – Tuesdays – 7:15 -7:50 a.m.

YMQ – Wednesdays – 3:00-3:45 p.m.

YWC – Thursdays – 7:15 – 7:50 a.m.

YWQ – Fridays – 7:15 -7:50 a.m.

ATHLETIC DATES

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK PRACTICE – TUESDAY/THURSDAY – 3:15-5:15 P.M. –CRESTWOOD

VARSITY TRACK PRACTICE – MONDAY/TUESDAY/THURSDAY – 3:15-5:15 P.M. –CRESTWOOD

FENCING – TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS – 4:00-5:00 P.M. AT THE UPPER SCHOOL



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