

# V E R B U M

## The Marks We Want To Leave: Class of '08

In our first week of this, our senior year, Mr. Fischer, our Headmaster and thesis teacher, struck us all with

a rather unexpected question. Since then it has provoked much thought and resolve in the seniors at Veritas Academy. The question was this: "What mark will you leave on Veritas Academy?" He explained that every graduate had left marks both unintentional and intentional, many good, others

not as good. In light of this, we all spent time thinking about what sort of marks we would inevitably leave and how we could make them a blessing to the school. Below each member of the class of 2008 expounds a bit of what their thoughts and resolutions have resulted in.



**Class of 2008:**  
From left to right:  
Meghan Lake,  
Rachel Arrick,  
Alison Sailor,  
John Hayward,  
Hannah Hoover,  
Jordan Melton,  
Megan Petticoffer

### Rachel Arrick |

Being the youngest of 6, I am not accustomed to being one of the oldest of 170. When Mr. Fischer first asked us what mark we planned to leave, I was taken aback. "Wait, I'm a senior? I have a mark to leave? I'm leaving?!" These were exciting, but terrifying thoughts! Over the next few days I thought about it, and concentrated on what had helped me the most throughout school. I reminisced about the arguments with friends, problems with grades, concerns about being fashionable, attractive, or

popular, and even having a rebellious spirit toward teachers. In retrospect, most of the struggles I continued to have were because I did not take advantage of the greatest weapon given to me by God to fight the everyday conflicts that arise. What helped me the most, and what will always help me is reading the Word of God, both individually and corporately. While I struggled with making friends and being popular, it was a comfort and a challenge to read the words of David when he was being hunted by

Saul and being forced to depend on only God. When I worried about being attractive and fashionable, what a rebuke it was to realize that while I was putting so much time and effort into my outward appearance, I was neglecting to develop a meek and quiet spirit through the relationship I had with the Lord. Whether it was noticeable or not, when I rebelled against my teachers, the example of Christ slowly trained me to submit to authority, no matter the situation. Finally, as I continue to worry about grades

and deadlines, especially with a 50-page paper hanging over my head, the fact that God is working everything out for my

## John Hayward |

Throughout my nine years as a student at Veritas Academy, the majority of them have been spent with the balance of my classes weighted heavily towards the side of femininity, and two years ago shifted further so as to leave me as the sole male representative in the class of 2008. This series of favorable ratios has led to many privileges and a few challenges. As a product of this happy situation for a young man, along with the

good continues to humble me and helps me to trust in Him. Devoting time each day in the Bible and in prayer is the mark,

examples that have been set before me, and stemming from many pleasurable and some not quite so pleasurable experiences, I have been instilled with a deep respect, love and esteem for all women. I have been blessed by being surrounded by beautiful, lovely, intelligent and pleasant young women; they have given me a deep insight into many areas of life which I would not have attained otherwise. So, my wish, as I finish out my decade

or impact, that I would like to leave on the students of Veritas.

at Veritas Academy is that the young men may gain not just the important, yet incomplete habits and mannerisms of opening doors, aiding with burdens, providing with preferred seats, or giving the primacy of choice and position, but also with a respect, love and value for those gorgeous, graceful creatures, our sisters in Christ.

## Hannah Hoover |

*How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!* My years at Veritas Academy have been great years in my life. I have learned much and met many wonderful people. A week ago our senior class was asked the question, “what sort of mark would you like to leave on this school?” I have been giving this some thought recently, and

I have come to realize what it is that I love most about Veritas. The thing that I love most about the school is the sense of community. Being that it is small, it is much easier to get to know everyone. Being raised in a large family, I have come to learn the importance of “getting along” at a young age. The main thing that I would like to inspire

my fellow students to is unity, throughout the different grades, the teachers, and each other. It is a privilege to be able to go to a school where you can interact with the other students outside your class. I hope that this will continue for many years to come.

## Meghan Lake |

We have all heard the expression “the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.” In many situations we think it would be better to experience something else, because we are bored or tired of what we are dealing with at the present time. If we get our way, however, and change what we are doing, we find out the other side has consequences as well. A literal example of the grass is always greener could be applied to horses. When the new grass comes up in the spring, the horses I work with are always itching to get to it. Instead we must keep them away from it or only allow a little time in the grass each day. The reason is the horse can get sick with colic if it ingests too much grass into

the system before its system is ready to handle it. Though the grass looks appetizing, it is too soon for the horse to really enjoy it. Though the horse may not like the rule, it keeps him happy and healthy in long run.

Sometimes I fear this is the case with some students in Christian schools. It can feel like we are being bogged down with a lot of rules, and the work load may seem stressful at times. When the student feels like this, he or she immediately thinks that public school or any school in some cases would be the best option. This may be true in some rare cases, but in my experience the grass is not greener. The freedom to dress differently and the large population of public schools may seem tempting, but in the

long run, none of this is worth it.

Before I came to Veritas, I attended another Christian school. I was happy there, but I knew many students who were not satisfied there. When the school closed, they got their golden opportunity to enroll at public schools. Countless students a year later commented on how much they wished our school was still opened because public school was not all it was cracked up to be. I, on the other hand, was upset when the school closed, but I now see it as a blessing because Veritas has provided me with a wonderful education. This great school has pushed me to discover talents I did not know I had and has left me with knowledge I will use for the rest of my life.

What I would like to leave the younger students at Veritas when I graduate is this. Yes, the high school years can be tough and anything looks better, but if you keep struggling through you will find it was worth it. You may not get the chance to be in another school, but that is alright. Be thankful that you do not have to discover the hard way that the grass was fine on your side of the fence.

### Jordan Melton |

In the five years I have attended Veritas Academy I have come to realize how truly blessed I am. One of the innumerable blessings God has given me is the opportunity for an outstanding education. In this, my sixth and final year at Veritas, it is my desire to not only be more grateful and appreciative for this opportunity but to reflect that attitude in my actions and words, and also to encourage my fellow students to make the most of what Veritas can give them. Veritas does not

### Megan Peticoffer |

I've been going to Veritas Academy since first grade. It's hard to believe that I've been here that long. Throughout those years, something I struggled with was the small size of the school. I remember being jealous of my friends that went to public school, which have more than enough people to play several sports, or act in

### Alison Sailor |

"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." This is one of my favorite quotes. As a senior I am realizing the ability I have to influence those younger than myself for good or bad, whether I mean to or not. With this ability comes responsibility. If I could leave one exhortation,

Just like my friend knows what is best for her horse's health, your parents and teachers know what is best for your education. I even know some public school students who wish they could enjoy some of the freedoms that our school has, that a public school does not offer. No one ever said that education was easy, but the harder you work at it the more you will enjoy the fruits of your labors later. I want

by any means ensure a student a wonderful, well-rounded classical education that will shape them and allow them to grow in the love, understanding and admiration of their God; however, it is one of the relatively few educational institutions that gives every student an opportunity at such an education. I want the students here to love the fact that their teachers are God-fearing individuals who truly care about their students in a way that goes over and beyond

plays, etc. But as I look back and think about my years at Veritas, I don't think I really would have wanted to go to any other school. The friendships I have developed, especially in the last few years, are very special. It's like we are a big family, and these are the kind of relationships that will last long after we graduate. One very

one final statement, one lasting impression, one mark, it would be this: to strongly encourage students to desire to seek and follow God's plan for their lives. Too many students leave high school in pursuit of their own dreams and ambitions without stopping to ask one simple question: What does *God*

to encourage the students here to preserve especially in the area of their education and realize that they are where they are because God has put them there, and that the grass is not always greener on the other side.

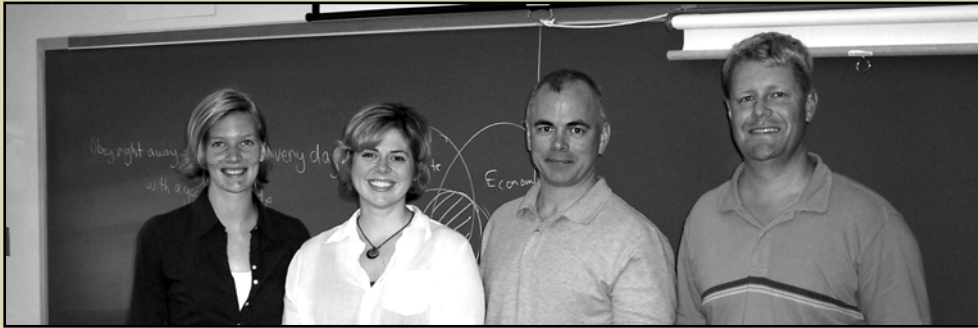
their job description. I want them to come to be thankful for things like uniforms, which at times seem burdensome and restricting, and to realize that such things are implemented by the administration for our own good. Finally, and most importantly, I want them to rejoice in the fact that they not only have the opportunity to get a good education, but one that finds all its meaning in Christ.

amazing attribute Veritas has is the intimacy between the different grades and also between teachers and students. I hope that this will continue at Veritas, and I am thankful that I learned that the quality of friendships are much more beneficial than quantity.

want me to do with my life? True happiness comes from following God's direction for our lives, and the answer to that question only comes through prayer. God will test us to see if we have to right ambition for life after high school, so we must be ready and willing to accept this challenge.



## New Faculty and Staff at Veritas



**From left to right:**  
Anna Demme,  
Leslie Bustard,  
David Blank,  
Graham Dennis

David Blank - is the new Secondary Science teacher at Veritas Academy. David has holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science in Education from Bucknell University. Before coming to Veritas, he was employed as a Science teacher at West Fallowfield Christian School. David also served as assistant principal, a science teacher and a computer programming teacher at Northumberland Christian School, as well as a guidance counselor at Shikellamy High School. David lives in Atglen, Pa., with his wife Lisa.

Leslie Bustard- joins Veritas as the new fifth grade teacher. Leslie grew up in Wilmington, Delaware. She graduated from Wilmington Christian School with a desire to become a

history teacher. Leslie attended Millersville University and majored in Social Studies/Secondary Education, with her focus on American History. She taught at Chapelgate Christian Academy in Maryland for three years and home schooled her children once moving to Lancaster. Leslie is married to Ned Bustard, who is Veritas Academy's graphic artist. Ned and Leslie are the proud parents of three children. She says that she loves "books, poetry, art, music, teaching, city life, and feeding people in my home." Leslie is a member of Wheatland Presbyterian Church and lives in Lancaster.

Anna Demme - is the new lower grammar music teacher this year. Anna attended Bryan College in Dayton, Tenn., and graduated with a B.S. in Music Education. She is married to

Ethan and currently lives in Peach Bottom, Pa. Anna teaches and singing lessons and enjoys riding motorcycles, playing sports, and writing.

Graham Dennis - is our new Secondary teacher. Graham has graduated from Columbia International University, received his Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from University of South Carolina and his Masters in Philosophy from Boston College. Prior to coming to Veritas, Graham was employed at St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, Mass., and most recently at Calvary Christian School in Elizabethtown, Pa. Graham will also be taking over the responsibilities of Verbum this year. He is the proud parent of three children: Elya, Ian and Evan

## Introducing Our New Development Director

Rob Spykstra is our new Development Director. He has been married for almost 20 years (this December) to Tamra. He has three boys who attend Veritas Academy - Zach is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade; Caleb in 7<sup>th</sup> grade; Seth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Rob and Tamra also have a three-year-old Chinese daughter, Emily.

Rob and his family came to us from eastern Nebraska. At the beginning of his marriage, he lived in Lancaster County . . . Nebraska. He graduated with a degree in Business Administration and Economics from Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska. His first job was working with an affiliate company of Allstate in Lincoln, Nebraska,

which is located in Lancaster County. Rob went on to Western Seminary and received his Master of Divinity degree and pastored for 15 years in two different churches, the last ten years in an Evangelical Free church.

What has been the most difficult adjustment in his first three weeks in Pennsylvania?

“Learning the local language. I always thought it was ‘Reading Railroad,’ as in reading a book.” The other difficult adjustment is the roads. “Our

roads are straight. Yours aren’t. I don’t know how many times we have gotten lost in the past few weeks. Besides those minor adjustments,

we’ve thoroughly enjoyed the new area and have felt warmly welcomed by all those we have met.”

## What Second Graders Can Teach a Seminary Graduate

| Mr. Rob Spykstra

What can second graders teach a seminary graduate? Apparently they can teach me much in a short period of time. I’ve been starting each day slowly working through the rich book of Genesis. I’m up to Joseph’s imprisonment after fleeing Potiphar’s wife’s advances. Here enters my time with Ms. Chapin’s second grade class.

The class was working on their history card, “The Fall in the Garden: Genesis 3.” In the quiet of busy pencils completing an exercise, Ms. Chapin pointed her newest student – me – to the time line with its long line of historical events in ancient Egypt. “We teach history chronologically integrating biblical recorded history with

events not recorded in Scripture.” As I stared at the dates I confess I was surprised how deep into history Joseph is found. I mean really, his story is found in the first book of the Bible. What has God been doing with all that time in between creation and chapter 37 where Joseph’s story starts? Well according to that time line, a lot!

As I continued to stare at that timeline I was reminded, “Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you” (2 Peter 3:8–9a). God is sovereign through all history, not just that which is recorded in Scripture. He truly stands over all. He is also not slow. He will be true to His promises. As I sat there considering these realities to

the quiet hum of the children’s work, I was greatly encouraged.

This is what sets Veritas apart as an educational institution. As I sit across the table from a potential donor, they are going to ask this question, “Why ought I give my resources to Veritas Academy? What sets the Academy apart from other schools?” This is what sets Veritas apart, to provide a distinctively classical and *Christian* education. Not simply offering prayer and Bible as one more activity and class to a set of academic courses like math, science, composition and history, but rather examining those subjects in the bright light that He truly stands over all.

This is what the second graders are learning; a lesson this seminary graduate needed to learn again.



## Movies: The Good, the Bad, and the Culture They Influence



Part of reforming the culture is understanding it, analyzing it, and discovering what drives the ideas and standards of society. In a culture as media driven as America’s is, Christians can not and should not fail to

recognize the impact movies have on society’s mindset. Every movie has messages, themes, and concepts that either fit a biblical model or do not, but in either case they must be examined that we may further understand the proper

role of Christians in the media, and that of media in Christians. Throughout the year, secondary students will be composing reviews on movies which have either recently come out, or will be out on DVD soon.

### 3:10 to Yuma | John Hayward

In many a great classic western, (most of

which star John Wayne), a western brand of Victorianism is sometimes displayed. The bad guys are bandits who may kick kids but would never

shoot one, or desperados who, although displayed as evil, have an amazing charm. In “3:10 to Yuma,” director James Mangold and

screenwriters Michael Brandt and Derek Haas, do an excellent job of maintaining all the action and charisma of the older westerns, while enriching it with a great depth of historical accuracy. It is the story of a conflict of wills between two very different men. One is Ben Wade, a ruthless train robber, played by Russell Crowe, who gives yet another fantastic and compelling performance. The other is Dan Evans, a Civil War

veteran, struggling to keep his Arizona ranch alive, played by Christian Bale, in another great role. When Wade is captured, Evans volunteers to get him to the 3:10 train to Yuma prison in order to get money to help his family. With Ben's murderous band in pursuit, the chase begins. This movie is an excellent one and gives a superb backdrop for any study of the West during that time period. It presents a deep and complex character in

Ben Wade, and gives an accurate and deep portrayal of humanity. I, however, can not recommend letting young people see this movie, it has some violent and disturbing images which are key to the movie, yet will haunt the watcher as he walks out of the theater, or at least ought to. If there were stars I would give it 4 out of 5, and say it is a must see for avid cinema fans.

## Mr. Bean's Holiday | Jordan Melton

Many of us remember Mr. Bean from "Bean: the ultimate disaster movie" and the TV series. Now he's back in a bumbling comedy starring Rowan Atkinson, "Mr. Bean's Holiday". Originally given a rating of PG for brief mild language by the MPAA, it was later given a rating of G after the film was re-edited. This film contained no bad ratings for language, violence, or sexual content. In fact, very little happened in the movie at

all, it has no redeeming message, no conflict driven plot, no breath-taking fight scenes or extraordinary digital effects, and the audience walks out of the movie theatre no wiser regarding historical events, theological dilemmas, or current events than when they entered it. Wendy Ide of *The Times*, who gave the film 2 out of 5 stars said that the jokes are weak and one gag "was past its sell-by date ten years ago." Perhaps this is why I enjoyed the movie so much for what it was intended to be: good clean humor. This concept is, I fear, lost on our

post-Borat world where all comedy must contain crass shock value, language, and sexual innuendo. After previewing the movie with a few friends, I took my little sister to see it. She was laughing about 85% of the time and, so was I. Clean, well done, situational humor is not something often seen in theaters today. I highly recommend this movie for all audiences.

