

# VERITAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

PURSUING EXCELLENCE THROUGH FAITH, LOVE, & REASON



Serving students in preschool through grade 8 in the heart of Metrowest Boston

[VeritasMA.org](http://VeritasMA.org)

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# IMPACT REPORT

**As we approach the end of the calendar year we can't miss the opportunity to celebrate with thankful hearts the many blessings Veritas has faithfully received.**

Thank you for being an important part of our growth and success. With the acquisition of Elmwood Preschool this fall we now have 194 students enrolled on our two campuses! While this was an unexpected opportunity, it has proven to be an excellent next step in our efforts for continued growth and impact. We recognize and are aware of God's endless provisions as the Veritas family grows larger each year.

This fall has been a wonderful time of community building as we have enjoyed student retreats, parent socials, alumni visits, and staff celebrations. The classrooms and hallways have been filled with joy as we have re-introduced our much loved chapel and reading buddies and our courts and fields have been loud with cheers of encouragement as our athletics and enrichment programs thrive. We are also excited about our planned year of "faith in action" in which our community can return to meaningful in-person service opportunities.

As we continue in our commitment to excellent academics, sincere character development, and timeless Biblical truth, we have launched a new *Habitudes* curriculum with our 6-8th grade students. *Habitudes* is a research based program specifically created to connect with the next generation, committed to developing young leaders around the world to solve problems and serve people. At Veritas, we are not simply striving to launch students who are smart and well-equipped, but more importantly, have passion and purpose, seeing their place in the world as leaders and difference makers. We are thrilled to introduce a program to our middle school students that so closely aligns with the Veritas mission:

**To develop in our students an authentic faith in Christ, an unconditional love for all people, and the ability to reason through the complex problems of this world.**

Please take the time to read the important Impact Report below to see the many ways God is allowing us to use your gifts to achieve amazing results in the lives of our students. Let the next few minutes be the highlight of your day and serve as a reminder to make today count for eternity.

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# NANCY REID HONORED WITH NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD!

This September, Veritas was thrilled to learn that our very own Nancy Reid was named a National Teacher of the Year by the Herzog Foundation. We have always known how special Nancy is and we couldn't be more excited to share this honor with her, and now with you.

For Nancy, becoming an educator was not simply an employment decision, but also the fulfillment of God's calling for her life. During her 13 years at Veritas, countless students, families, and staff have had the privilege of seeing this conviction put into practice.

Nancy's commitment to explore the subjects of Biology, Physics, and Earth Science with her students is motivated by the hope they might more fully understand and appreciate our Creator, discovering everywhere the fingerprints of God - from the largest objects in our solar system down to the smallest molecular machines in our bodies.

As Nancy leads her students on a journey through science, she challenges both their minds and their faith. In her class, students are no longer allowed to blindly believe in God or gravity.



**They must use their intellect, think critically, ask difficult questions, discover evidence, and come to logical conclusions about what they believe.**

Through hands-on dissections, inventions, and experiments, her students uncover the miracles of anatomy and discover beauty in our natural world.

Below is a short video in Nancy's own words regarding the importance of allowing scientific understanding to strengthen the faith of our students. Scan the QR code to listen to Nancy.



Take a minute to watch how Nancy was honored at the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C.



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## MRS. REID'S LASTING LEGACY

"Mrs. Reid has a unique ability to strengthen her students' faith by teaching them scientific inquiry from multiple perspectives. Because of Mrs. Reid, many Veritas alumni love and study science at top universities, and many choose to serve God in the mission field as engineers, doctors and nurses. When these students come home, they head straight to the science lab to see their Middle School Science teacher: Nancy Reid." - Lisa Gerdes



## NATHANAEL DEAN, VCA CLASS 2014

Nathanael is currently serving the Lord on a Cardiac ICU step-down unit at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, TN. After graduating as Valedictorian from Lexington Christian Academy, Nathanael completed his undergraduate studies at Union University with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing. He was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, as well as the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society. He was the president of the University Relations Ambassadors, and chaplain of his nursing class. Here's what Nathanael had to say when we recently asked him why he chose nursing.

"The reason I chose to go into nursing was to answer the Lord's call in my life to serve Him in ministry long term. I believe the Lord is calling me to serve Him overseas as a missionary one day and I believe that I will at least in part use my nursing for that purpose. Until that time comes, the hospital is my mission field and I seek to pray with as many patients as I can and to tell them all about the good news of Jesus Christ that has changed my life and will change their lives, too. So far my job has been really tough and stressful. I have really depended on the Lord and His strength to make it through each shift. The thing that I honestly like the most about my job is when I get to sit with my patients and pray with them and tell them about Jesus. He is my joy and telling others about Him brings me joy."



DAVID HATFIELD

**David Hatfield** recently graduated from the United States Air Force Academy, with a Bachelors of Science in Biology and he is currently studying Microbiology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. David was recognized as a Distinguished Graduate, earned the Cadet Research Award, OM-1 Award, and was on the Aces list for academic and athletic achievement.

David is currently a 2nd Lt. in the United States Air Force and will serve as an Intelligence Officer upon completion of his master's program.

He particularly enjoys “expanding the boundary of scientific knowledge pertaining to certain viruses and finding the beauty of God in the minute details of the natural world”.

David’s advice for our current students, “To really take hold of your faith at an individual level and never be afraid to ask your teachers questions about Christianity; continuously wrestle with the living word of God”.



ABBY GERDES

**Abby Gerdes** is studying at Johns Hopkins University, and is currently pre-med, majoring in chemistry and public health. She has started working towards her Master’s in epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health during her senior year.

When we caught up with Abby this fall, here’s what she had to say about science at Veritas. “I enjoyed science, particularly because of how visual and hands-on the class was. She always had us doing projects and making 3D models. I am naturally very curious, and my brain just likes science. Mrs. Reid was patient with all my questions. I really appreciated how she emphasized how faith and science can coexist. I never felt like my love of science conflicted with my faith. At Veritas I learned to love learning young. My current plan is to go to med school. But, you don’t need to know your vocation to serve God’s Kingdom. Serving God’s Kingdom is showing Christ’s love to others and being willing to share your story.”



SARAH MASON

**Sarah Mason** is a Senior at Baylor University at the Louise Herrington School of Nursing and is pursuing her Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN).

She recounted that “Mrs. Reid taught us to be curious and to admire the design that the Lord put into everything around us.”

Sarah shared with us why she is excited to serve the Lord as a nurse. She said, “The role of nurse puts you in such a unique position to care for the patients holistically. I see myself using my calling to be a nurse to love people and serve them on yes, a physical level, but to also care for them as people made in the Imago Dei with dignity, value, and worth. I foresee using my medical training to serve the local community, and hopefully on missions trips as well. The great gift of nursing is, I can use it anywhere and therefore, I am surrendering that to wherever the Lord wants to place me.”

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## SAM MILLER

Sam is currently a senior at Gordon College, double-majoring in Math and Chemistry with a minor in Data Science. Sam has received Presidential Honors every semester.

"Mrs. Reid had an incredible influence in my decision to go into the science field. During my time at Veritas, Mrs. Reid taught me math, physics, chemistry and biology - all of which I have pursued to a greater depth later on in my academic career.

There are so many applications of STEM to serve God's Kingdom. I personally hope to use my knowledge of statistics and other math fields to help mission organizations minimize costs and most efficiently get the Gospel to unreached people groups, as well as freeing the oppressed."



*Mrs. Reid has a knack for making 'daunting' topics simple and fun. She taught me to not be afraid of science and math, but to see them as proof of God's design displayed through nature.*



**JAIME  
ROMERO**

Jaime is currently a senior at Carnegie Mellon majoring in mechanical engineering with an emphasis in robotics. He is an Aptibe scholar, winner of the 2020 Rethink the Rink Covestro hackathon and the 15-112TP award for his facial recognition model.

"Veritas prepared me in two very important ways. They gave me the work ethic I needed to go to Carnegie Mellon and really strive for my dreams. And, Mrs. Reid taught me to love learning new things and to embrace curiosity in all areas of my life. Veritas gave me the foundation and confidence to do all that I've needed to do."

The last two summers Jaime has worked with General Motors in the electric propulsion department as he continues to explore his interest in autonomous vehicles as well as his current research in solar energy with the Carnegie Mellon EPP department. Jaime is planning to begin a masters program in robotics next fall.

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# DONOR FINANCIAL IMPACT



**\$1,283,719**  
*Donations Received*

Donation dollars are the fuel that propel our mission forward. Thank you for your generosity this year as we continue to raise funds to enable us to reach more students for Kingdom Impact. Our first priority will always be shepherding our flock and providing for the needs of our current students.

We are committed to making a Veritas education accessible to families with diverse socio-economic situations. Using our Free-To-Give February contributions as well as funds given specifically to the Samuel Cadiche Scholarship Fund we were able to distribute \$218,788 in financial aid to 42 of our students this year. That made a critical difference in the accessibility of a Veritas education to 28% of our current students. Thank you!

“*Sending our children to Veritas Christian Academy has been a game changer because the academics are challenging but the culture is supportive and team-oriented. Each of our children are learning to be their best, and that’s different for each of them. The notion that God has an amazing design for their lives has guided their studies and extracurriculars. There isn’t another school in our area that can offer that kind of culture.*”



In addition, your donations have allowed us to increase our reserve and endowment funds as well as grow our Capital Campaign foundation. Together, these resources will allow us to meet the demand to continue expanding our Veritas program to reach more students in the metro west community.

This past year has proven to be an important time to evaluate our educational needs and design options. Our building committee has met extensively with two different architects who have provided multiple options for a permanent campus at 164 Cochituate Road. We have plans for a multiphase transition as well as a single build option, both of which would allow us to expand to 2 classes per grade. Our commitment now is to continue increasing our “war chest” so that as funding becomes available and supply and construction costs return to normal, we will be able to move forward wisely, quickly, and with confidence.

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# PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Veritas has four distinctly designed giving opportunities throughout the year. We would love for you to prayerfully consider how you might partner with us.

## 1. NOVEMBER - GIVING TUESDAY

This year, while our parents and community are encouraged to participate in our Giving Tuesday campaign, our students will be “giving back” as they serve alongside CIC and Little Lamb Day Care to provide items for The Foster Box, the CIC Food Pantry, and the Pine Street Inn.

## 2. DECEMBER - YEAR END GIFTS

Year-end Gifts not only make an eternal impact in the lives of our students, they have many benefits to the giver. We are happy to facilitate gifts of stock, company matching gifts and provide tax benefits.

## 3. FEBRUARY FREE-TO-GIVE

Free-to-Give February is an easy way to make a BIG impact on our financial aid efforts for deserving students. During the months of February and March no regular tuition payments are due, however you can simply chose to give one month’s tuition or a portion of that tuition payment during our re-enrollment process. If every family donates just one extra tuition payment we could fully fund next year’s financial aid needs. Commitments are made in February and donations are received in March.

## 4. JUNE - RUN FOR THE FUTURE

The annual Run for the Future is our students turn to take the lead in the giving campaign. Students write letters or make videos to share what they love most about our school with friends and family, who in turn support their run during Field Day. Our students are creative, motivated, and winsome. It’s always a joy when students realize, year after year, that their compelling stories result in higher giving than their parents' donation drive in February!



"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."

Isaiah 1:17

## CEREAL DRIVE

Our students collected over 200 boxes of cereal to donate to Daniel's Table in Framingham and the CIC Food Pantry. Take a moment to enjoy our "chain reaction" video.



## BIRTHDAY BOXES

Students packed up supplies to help families in need give their child a birthday party. Our littlest students topped off the boxes with handmade birthday cards!



**Our students also engaged in serving with the following ministries in 2021/2022:**

- **Operation Colby Claus/ MGH Pediatric Oncology-** Students collected games and toys to give to children battling cancer
- **Sunrise Assisted Living in Wayland** - Students enjoyed conversation, played games, and even painted nails with some of the residents
- **Emmanuel Gospel Center** - Students collected coats for Afghan evacuees
- **Homes of Hope** - Several families took part in building a home in Baja, Mexico, establishing our partnership with YWAM



# VERITAS

We are distinct, a school intentionally designed to stand out by living authentically for Christ. We serve with an eternal perspective. Together, we are on a mission to build a community founded in genuine faith which offers unconditional love and respect to all people. We develop creative and critical thinkers who have the ability to reason through the complex problems facing our world. Our students learn how to think, not what to think. We measure success by the transformed lives of our graduates who are pursuing truth, have resilient souls, serve with Christlike humility and are fulfilling their unique and eternal purpose in this world.

