



The Stoltzfus Family

Children Enrolled at Veritas Since 1997

In 1990, Janette and I drove from Chestertown, Maryland, to Newberg, Oregon, in search of an adventure. We were filled with optimism and anticipation; new places to explore, new friends to make, a new church to belong to, the beginning of graduate school for me, and Janette was pregnant with our first child.

Seven years later, we had three children - Melissa, Hans, and Micah. I was a psychologist and Janette was talking about this new classical Christian school called Veritas. I wasn't interested. Everyone knows the problems that come with 'start ups' and the years needed to figure out how to make their ideas work in the real market.

The year prior, Melissa had been ready for kindergarten. We were out of town the first semester, but we enrolled her in a local kindergarten for the second semester. We lasted in the public system one term. During the day, Melissa learned 'social skills' and how to use "I statements." In the evening, we taught her how to read and do math. Like every aspiring parent, we knew our kids could handle more, much more. In 1997, when Veritas - the new "start-up" school - opened, we enrolled her in the 1st/2nd-grade blend. This is where Melissa learned the basics from teachers like Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Kozushko, and many others, and it only continued to get better. In 1998, Rebekah joined our family, increasing our potential Veritas scholars to four.

Over the past 18 years, we've nurtured our children through the Veritas classical and Christ-centered educational program and have never regretted our decision. Melissa graduated from Veritas in 2009 and is midway through her doctoral studies in clinical psychology. Hans graduated from Veritas in 2011 and plans to begin his own doctoral studies in clinical psychology in the fall. Micah graduated from Veritas in 2015 and is taking pre-med at Biola University, and Rebekah is currently a junior in high school at Veritas and will graduate with the Class of 2017. We've been profoundly surprised and pleased to find our students so well prepared for college and so eager to take their education up to the next level.

Here are a few things they, our children, have to say about their experiences at Veritas:

Melissa - *Veritas prepared me academically for the challenges of college and then graduate school. It gave me a foundation for how to think critically and an appreciation for a wide variety of subjects, from music to mosaics to*

math. My Veritas education gave me a deep longing for truth and beauty and a thoughtful, comprehensive, Christian worldview. Another lasting impact of Veritas has been the community. Through the challenges and joys of college and graduate school, friends and teachers from Veritas have shown me Christ's love in tangible and meaningful ways that have encouraged me to persevere in my pursuit of the Kingdom. I'm thankful for the holistic and significant way that Veritas has impacted my life."

Hans - *"Veritas prepared me well for my studies in college. I have also been blessed with many friendships from my class that have continued to grow beyond our days at Veritas. When I meet teachers now that I am graduated, they are always friendly and know a little bit of what I'm up to. Many of them also give me hugs. It's nice to be remembered."*

Micah - *"Veritas has provided me with skills and habits essential for success in today's world. Along with teaching me how to study and learn effectively Veritas has taught me how to think critically and evaluate the world around me through the eyes of Jesus Christ."*

Rebekah - *"Veritas has broadened my knowledge of Theology. Through books such as The Aeneid, and Confessions of Augustine, and authors like Boethius and Dante, I have learned how to analyze true virtue, philosophically understand the world around me, and understand, at least partially, a small part of God's nature."*

Of course, nothing worthwhile comes easily nor is it cheap. We've dealt with the relative 'smallness' of being 'private,' the question of sports, and issues of extra-curricular opportunities. But we didn't have to deal with students being overwhelmed by too many options or demoralizing social pressures. And we were able to embrace a worldview with our children which is both orthodox and progressive, committed to faith and to contemporary learning, committed to truth that can be known and articulated while searching for answers to complex cultural and scientific questions.

As we look back over the 18 years that our children have attended Veritas, we are so thankful that they all were able to receive a classical and Christ-centered education. One of the ways we give back to the school is by supporting Veritas' annual Family-of-Funds drive. We know that our contribution makes a significant difference because it directly benefits each student, as well as the quality and range of school programming. It also helps to keep down tuition by going toward the difference between the money generated by tuition and the actual day-to-day expenses of running the school.

Would you please join us today and prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible contribution of \$300, \$500, \$1,000, or more? The goal of this year's appeal is to raise \$50,000 before the year ends. Every dollar donated, regardless of the amount, helps to make it possible for all of our students' to receive an excellent, Christ-centered and classical education.

Thank you for allowing us to share our family's Veritas story, and we pray that you and your family will have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas.

Sincerely,



Paul and Janette Stoltzfus

A return-self-addressed donation envelope has been included for your convenience.
You can also donate at our Veritas Website www.veritasschool.net