

VERITAS GAZETTE

SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITION EDITORS: MERON FEKADU & MS. ELGUT

School Orientation



Orientation Night was a big hit on the Veritas campus this year. It was not just a night of reunion; it was a fresh start for everyone. Students met with teachers and had the opportunity to chat about summer adventures, school plans, and everything in between. Club leaders were actively recruiting, especially among new students, while conversations buzzed with excitement, curiosity, and a few nerves about the year ahead.

Students and parents converged in the Omnibus Room, which looked like a lively marketplace with teachers sitting behind busy tables displaying textbooks and syllabi. While the teachers did not shout like vendors in a bazaar, they made sure their voices carried enough to draw students to their tables.

Parents' interest in STEM subjects contrasted strikingly with students' enthusiasm for sports, arts, and music. Yet, the Zero Bell innovation of the music department clearly stole the show. Although not everyone was thrilled about arriving at school by 7:00 a.m. for daily music practice, many students expressed excitement in sharing their thoughts about the new schedule.

The night closed with new resolutions, new friendships, and new goals. By the end, everyone was tired and ready for the long weekend ahead. There were challenges on the horizon, but nothing a Veritas student could not handle. Tuesday, September 2, would mark a new beginning. (BY: Gloria Godji)

A **FABULOUS** First Day at Veritas!

The 2025–2026 school year kicked off with excitement and energy at Veritas Collegiate Academy, Washington D.C. Upper School students began the morning with an orientation, where they learned the ins and outs of Veritas and reconnected with classmates and teachers.

After orientation, students attended their second bell classes to review syllabi and get an introduction to the year ahead. At lunchtime, everyone enjoyed ice cream sundaes — a sweet way to celebrate the start of a new year!

In the afternoon, students headed to the nearby field for team-building games with their grades, including capture the flag, tug-of-war, and other icebreaker activities that encouraged teamwork and laughter.

With record growth in our high school, it was a joy to welcome both new and returning Spartans. Here's to the best year yet at Veritas!

(BY: Ms. Elgut)



Niche Rankings

Veritas Collegiate Academy in Arlington has once again earned top honors in this year's Niche school rankings, recognized for its outstanding academics, Christian values, and close-knit community. The school received an overall grade of A+ and continues to maintain a 100% graduation rate with strong academic outcomes.

These rankings reflect the excellence, faith, and community spirit that define Veritas. Students, families, and faculty alike continue to make the school a model of academic rigor and character-centered education.

(BY: Ms. Elgut)

Top Rankings

- #1 Best Private K–12 School in Virginia
- #1 Best Private High School in Virginia
- #1 Best Christian High School in Virginia
- #1 Best Christian K–12 School in Virginia
- #2 Best Christian K–12 School in America
- #6 Best Christian High School in America
- #25 Best Private K–12 School in America



Honoring Our Everyday Heroes

In September, our lower school students came together to raise \$1,000 for first responders in Arlington in honor of the sacrifices made on 9/11. They also delivered catered lunches and handmade cards to our local fire and police departments. The police even visited the school to personally thank the students for their contributions. It was inspiring to see our young students step up with such eagerness to make a difference, showing heartfelt appreciation for those who sacrifice for us every day.

(BY: Rediet Fekadu)



Annual Nats Baseball Game

Veritas Collegiate Academy Washington, D.C. kicked off the school year with an exciting night at Nationals Park for the annual High School Kick-Off Event. Students, families, and staff cheered on the Nationals together, enjoying baseball, classic ballpark snacks, and plenty of school spirit. It was a fun and memorable way to start the year and celebrate the Veritas community!

(BY: Ms. Elgut)

Veritas Choir for Ben Carson

On September 20th, 2025, a group of lower school students from Veritas Collegiate Academy had the special opportunity to perform at Dr. Ben Carson's American Cornerstone Institute Founder's Dinner. Second-grader Zeke Randles shared his excitement afterward, saying, "It was great seeing Dr. Carson, and even the President was there!" The students truly enjoyed the experience and were honored to sing at such a memorable event.

(BY: Lulu Randles)



SPARTAN ATHLETICS



This September, Veritas launched into the new school year with exciting momentum — introducing our brand-new Girls Volleyball Team and welcoming back our Cross Country Team!

Our Veritas Spartans volleyball players have been working hard on and off the court, showing incredible teamwork, dedication, and school spirit. Looking sharp in their new uniforms, the girls are already making Veritas proud with their energy and commitment. Go Spartans!

Meanwhile, our Cross Country team is off to a fast start — with practices underway and their meets are already on the horizon. Be sure to cheer them on and stay updated as they continue to represent Veritas with perseverance and heart!

(BY: Ms. Elgut)





Tomb Of the Unknown Soldier

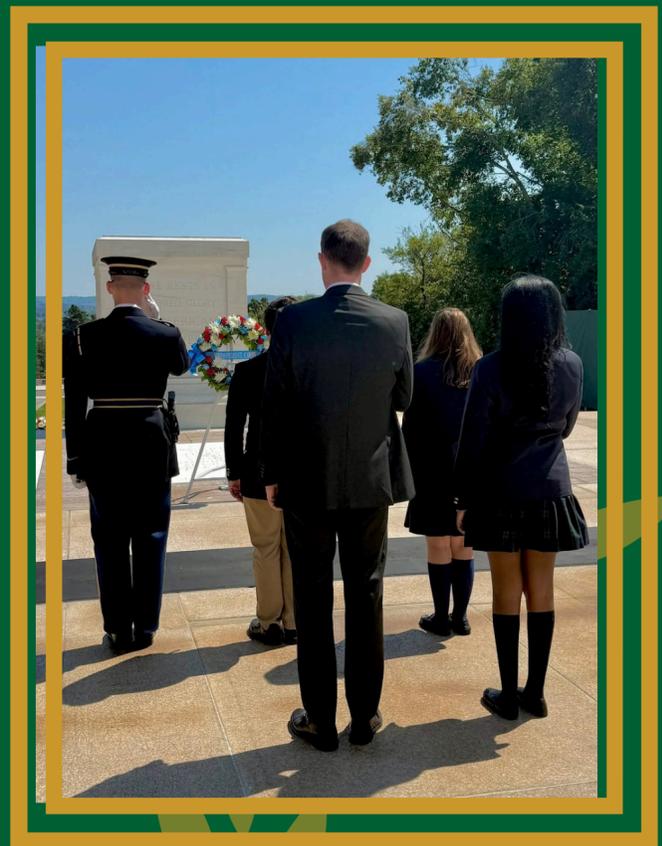
“Here...

“Rest in honored glory, an American soldier known but to God.”~

Etched into the marble of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, these words stand as a timeless reminder of sacrifice and gratitude. Students from Veritas Collegiate Academy’s Washington, D.C. campus visited Arlington National Cemetery to witness the Tomb and its surrounding memorials. The trip was both solemn and inspiring, highlighted by a wreath-laying ceremony in which Veritas students honored America’s fallen servicemen. The experience offered a meaningful glimpse into the traditions, respect, and symbolism that define one of the nation’s most sacred sites.

I Display

Adjacent to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier lies the Memorial Amphitheater Display Room, where students explored the history behind the Tomb and the immense impact of World War I. The exhibit offered a sobering look at the sacrifices made by soldiers and their families during that time of anguish, while also showcasing the diplomatic side of remembrance through foreign honors and tributes presented to the United States. For Veritas students, it was a powerful opportunity to connect with both the human cost of war and the global respect paid to America’s unknown heroes.



II History

In addition to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery is home to many other historically significant sites. Veritas students visited landmarks such as the John F. Kennedy Eternal Flame and the Arlington House, gaining insight into figures who shaped America’s past and present. Inside the Arlington House, students learned about the origins of the cemetery itself and how the estate’s history is intertwined with the nation’s story. The preserved rooms and artifacts gave students a vivid glimpse into the daily lives of the people who once lived there, bringing history to life in a powerful way.



(Jia Bao Kia)



FALL RETREAT



Pack up, get hyped, and get wild because it's time to go on an adventure! From September 24-26, the Upper School students from grades 7th-12th embarked on what was to be three days and two nights of endless fun. Hopping on the bus at 7 am, the students ventured down to the woodlands of the Shenandoah Valley on two fully compact charter buses. Despite the 5 hour trip, and a fun stop at Buckee's for lunch, the Upper School students soon found themselves completely surrounded by nature. At "Wilderness Adventure Camp," the retreat center, the smell of fresh air and mountain mist filled the remote environment. Gone were the phones and cellular Wi-Fi. But, there wasn't much time to stand idle!

Immediately after arriving, students were divided into cabins, and then organized into groups to head off to their first activities. Activities included canoeing, caving, giant-swinging, and cat-walking. After the activities, everyone regrouped in the "main" cabin to share meals and stories. Near dusk, the Upper School gathered outside to participate in amusing team-activity games before settling for a fun praise and worship session at dark. If that sounds like a very eventful day, wait till the next day!



The next day was packed with activities from sun-up to sun-down. Rotating through the same activities offered the first day, groups barely had time to catch their breaths! But by sun down, everyone was reenergized by one thing: the talent show! After repeating some team-building activities and holding a worship session, the fun commenced!

The students hollered, rooted, and cheered as many students showcased hidden talents, or just had fun performing for the school. Acts like Chima's unique artistic show, Calmette's spectacular singing skills, Dakota, Natalie, and Josiah's funny "baby shark" performance, and Gloria's extravagant dance gave the audience their money's worth of entertainment for the night. And afterwards, the students shared s'mores beneath a sky filled with thousands of twinkling stars. Lots of laughs and memories were shared throughout those 48 hours. But unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. As the third day rolled around, the students hopped back on their charter buses, said goodbye to Buc-ee's and headed onward to the school.

But wow! So much happened in such a short time! What was your favorite part of the retreat?

(BY: Gloria Miller)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

At this year's Fall Retreat, one of the standout moments at the talent show occurred when senior student Calmette performed Adele's hit "Rolling in the Deep." Although she was nervous at first, the encouragement from her classmates gave her the courage to step on stage and share her voice. What started with hesitation turned into a heartfelt performance that left a lasting impression on her peers. "At first, I didn't want to sing because of past experiences, but my friends here are so warm and supportive," she reflected. "They reminded me it wasn't about being perfect—it was about sharing something meaningful."

Outside of music, Calmette is a multi-talented student with a love for both art and athletics. She has been painting since she was young, using watercolors and digital tools to express her emotions through color. She has also played tennis for over a decade, starting when she was just six years old, and continues to enjoy the sport as a way to relax and spark new ideas for her art. Inspired musically by artists like Beyoncé, she values authenticity and expression in all forms—whether in her artwork, on the tennis court, or in her music. Calmette's singing at the retreat was not just a performance; it was an act of courage and a memory she hopes will make her senior year at Veritas even more special.

