



kids

VERITAS COMMUNITY CHURCH

## PARENT HANDBOOK

for parents at Veritas Tri-Village

Revised 2017

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Veritas Offices:**

345 E. Second Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43201

**Tri-Village Congregation:**

1780 Barrington Rd.  
Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221

**Mailing Address:**

605 N. High St. PMB 120  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

[www.veritascolumbus.com](http://www.veritascolumbus.com)

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. Philosophy
  - a. Vision
  - b. Core Values/Rhythms
2. Expectations for Parents
  - a. Security
  - b. What to Bring/Leave
3. What Parents Can Expect
  - a. Child Wellness
  - b. Classroom Descriptions
  - c. Classroom Promotions
  - d. Classroom Management

# PHILOSOPHY

---

## **Vision**

Veritas Kids exists to share God's glory and gospel of Jesus Christ so that our children may respond with awe, set their hope in him, and be transformed by the Holy Spirit. (Psalm 78:4-7)

---

## **Core Values/Rhythms**

We believe the Gospel not only transforms our minds but our entire lives, so in each of our classes we aim to walk your children through our rhythms of grace constantly using them to point to Christ and the work he has done for us.

### **Worship**

We value children as gifts from God, and it is our hope that our children would find everlasting joy in Christ. We believe that like adults, God created each child to know Him, love Him, and build His Kingdom. We also believe that children, like adults, are broken sinners who live in a fallen world, and that the only remedy for their condition is the redemption through Christ. So, every Sunday, we aim to teach the wonders of God in spirit and truth, so his words may move in their heart and lead them to heart-felt worship and repentance.

### **Community**

God has given the profound privilege of guiding and shepherding our little ones primarily to their parents. However, parents are not called to this task alone. At Veritas, we endeavor to surround parents and families with biblical community, so we may encourage each parent to a deeply committed relationship with God then equip them to exemplify and impart the joy of knowing and loving God to each of their children. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) We desire to see God build community among our children so that they would form persevering friendships as they grow up in Christ and join him on mission to reach others. Finally, we also recognize that many children in our city don't have parents who know Jesus or in many cases they don't even have parents who love them. Veritas also desires to be a spiritual home for them as well where they will find a family of Mother, Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters.

### **Service**

Our Savior did not come with selfish ambitions, nor did he free us so that we may live that way. The salvation he bought us was intended to free us from the bondage of sin and selfish pursuits in our lives, so we can live freely loving, serving, and honoring others. We call all those in the church to exemplify this for our children through selfless service and grace, always outdoing one another in showing honor.

### **Learning**

While we are immediately saved when we believe in Christ. We are also always being sanctified daily until Christ returns. We believe that the home is the primary place where this takes place, rather than being a task “outsourced” exclusively to the church. However, the church is also called to come alongside parents and encourage the work they are doing. As we do that, we desire to teach with

- Excellence so the kids will learn the gospel of God—His word and His works (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Exodus 13:14-16)
- Depth because the truth of the Gospel can be understood and applied by children even at a young age (2 Timothy 2:7)

### **Missions**

God’s transforming work is not intended to only bolster our hearts individually, but is intended to transform the world and bring God’s kingdom to earth. We believe and long for this wholeheartedly, and we encourage our children to desire this as well, because all children, like adults, are sinful and in need of Christ’s saving love (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Only the Gospel can change children, families, neighborhoods, and schools, so we encourage our children to live in pursuit of this reality through boldly and lovingly sharing God’s love and grace to others both locally and internationally.

# Expectations for Parents

Parents, thank you for entrusting us with the care of your children. As a help to us as we care for your children, please adhere to the following policies listed below. If, at any time, you have questions or concerns, feel free to share them with the kids ministry leadership. We desire to partner with you in showing Christ to your children, so any feedback on how to provide more support or safety is valued.

**Susanna Hall**

*Director of Children and Family Ministry*

---

## Security

### Check-in

We place a high priority on security to keep your children safe, so we ask that every child is checked-in and checked-out according to the following policy.

For check-in we use a program called Planning Center. Information about how to set up an account with them can be found at

<https://pcocheck-ins.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/204461960-Adding-People-in-Check-Ins>. However, there will also always be a volunteer at the check-in station to help new parents create an account for themselves and their children.

**\*Note: As parents create accounts for their children, please include any allergy, dietary restrictions, or special instructions you think the teacher may need to know.**

Once, parents create an account, they can link their account to their spouse's and children's. Then, every subsequent week, they will only need to enter their phone number, last name, or scan their barcode to sign into their account and check their family in.

Once a child is checked in, the parents should place the name tags that will print off in the middle of their child's back and drop them off at class. **All classes are open from 15 minutes before the gathering until 15 minutes after it ends, with the exception of the elementary room.** The elementary room opens after passing of the peace and closes after communion, at which point the elementary children are released to find their parents.

## **Check-out**

Only parents, legal guardians, or individuals they designate may retrieve a child from the Veritas Kids area. Any adult picking up a child must have the coordinating sticker with the matching 4 digit number for the child to be released from class. If the parent does not have their claim label, their identity may be confirmed with a driver's license.

---

## **Parent/Guardian Alert**

If a child should need a parent, or if the child has been inconsolable for 10 minutes, the classroom volunteer will notify the Team Lead. The Team Lead will then call the child's number to the media tech or text the parents.

---

## **What to Bring/Leave**

Following is a list of items to bring and (or) leave at home. Please make sure any items your child brings into the classroom are labeled. Extra labels can be printed off at the check-in stations for you. Additionally, if your child received a special snack before class, please allow them to finish it before coming into the classroom.

### **Infants**

- Bring: Disposable diapers
- Bring: A cup or bottle of water, milk, or juice (optional)
- Bring: A lovie (blankie, stuffed animal, or pacifier) if you believe it will be helpful during the service

### **Toddlers**

- Bring: Disposable diapers (if not fully potty trained)
- Bring: Cup or bottle of water, milk, or juice (optional)
- Leave: A lovie or special toy
- Leave: Special snacks

- Note\* It is recommended, but not required, that parents have an extra pair of clothes for their potty training toddlers

### **Preschool**

- Bring: A Bible
- Leave: A lovie or special toys
- Leave: Special snacks

### **Elementary**

- Bring: A Bible
- Leave: A lovie or special toys
- Leave: Special snack

# WHAT PARENTS CAN EXPECT

---

## Child Wellness

### Food Policy

The feeding of young children is a serious responsibility. Therefore, children should be fed before coming to church. Infants will be given formula, milk, juice or water as provided by the parents. Time and circumstances may not allow for spoon-feeding. A snack of water or juice and crackers (e.g. Goldfish, animal crackers, Cheerios, etc.) will be served to children attending the infant, toddler, preschool, and elementary class. **Any dietary restrictions should be communicated to the classroom volunteers as the child is dropped off and a Red Sticker should be placed on the child's name tag.**

### Sick Policy

For the comfort of our children and the safety of others, we ask parents keep their child out of the classroom if they exhibit one or more of the following:

Within the last 24 hours

- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

At any time

- Severe coughing
- Colored nasal drainage
- Pink eye
- Head lice or bedbugs
- Undiagnosed rash
- Any communicable diseases

Children who appear to be, or become ill at church will be isolated from the other children and their parents notified immediately.

### Restroom Policy

**All children should be taken to the restroom before being dropping off at class.** In the case where children ask to go to the restroom, Veritas volunteers will follow these guidelines:

- All toilet assistance and diaper changes will be done in the presence of two volunteers. If a child needs assistance, the volunteer will only enter the restroom with another adult in the doorway watching.
- Although we fully vet and trust our male volunteers, we ask that only female volunteers assist the children in the restroom. Male volunteers may escort the children to the restroom and change diapers as long as it is in the presence of two or more adults.
- Only children 4 and under will be assisted in the restroom.

\*If you would prefer to be the only one to assist your child in the bathroom, please let us know

### **Sanitation and Hygiene Policy**

We desire to maintain the safest, cleanest environment possible in order to ensure the health and welfare of all children. Therefore, these measures to ensure a clean environment will be implemented each week:

- Proper hand washing by both volunteers and children at these times:
  - After a diaper change
  - After accompanying a child to the restroom
  - Before handling food
- Wiping down of toys with a disinfectant wipes/spray after each use/service.

---

## **Classroom Descriptions**

### **Infants**

The infants class consists of all children birth up to 18 months old. The Gospel is introduced to children through play, music, and trusting relationships.

### **Toddlers**

*(combined with Infants during 11 am gathering)*

The Veritas Kids Toddlers class consists of all children 18 months -3 years old. This class is characterized by basic biblical truths, gentle play, and constant prayer.

### **Preschool**

The Veritas Kids Preschoolers class consists of children ages 4 through 6 years old. This class aims to engage the children and model the Gospel with Bible stories, interactive activities, creative discussions.

### **Elementary**

The Veritas Kids Elementary class consists of children attending 1st through 4th grade. This class challenges children's understanding and application of the Gospel through interactive Bible study, scripture memorization, and games that reinforce biblical truth.

### **Jr. High**

*(meets during the 11 am gathering)*

The Jr. High class aims to create a space for Gospel teaching and fellowship for the 10-13 year old age group. During their time together, they discuss the passage being preached in the gathering and apply it to their lives. They also have an informal monthly meeting outside of church to allow time for the students to fellowship.

---

## **Classroom Promotions**

It has always been the belief of Veritas that the parents and teaching volunteers are the best judges of when a child should move up to the next classroom. As a rule, we would like for children to stay in the classroom that is designed for their age, but if a parent or teacher believes a child would benefit from moving up to the next classroom, please share this with the kids ministry leadership. At times, the classroom's age ranges may be modified to meet the needs of the congregation and children.

---

## **Classroom Management**

All the classrooms have rules according to which the children are expected to adhere. When children are in direct opposition to these rules, the we will respond in the following way:

- Immediately verbally remind them of the expectation
- Verbally correct them with a loving attitude.
- Place them in time-out that is accompanied by a team lead or volunteer
  - Following time out the volunteer or team lead will
    - Discuss what happened in a non-threatening posture (bent down and making eye contact with the child.)
    - Address the heart issue, not just the behavior

- Pray for and with the child
- If any disciplinary action occurs, the parents will be updated of the occurrence immediately following the service
- If behaviors do not change after the above plan, parents will be contacted and asked to keep their child with them for the remainder of the gathering.