



## Growing Classroom Culture through Parent Partnerships with Robyn Burlew

Lecture 3: Your  
Classroom "City"  
within the "Country" of  
the School

### Outline:

#### Portrait of a Graduate

- We seek to cultivate students who:
  - Understand and believe the Gospel, enjoying a growing faith in Jesus Christ.
  - Participate in the local body of Christ.
  - Study Scripture, pray, and serve faithfully.
  - Read deeply and charitably; reason truthfully and rigorously.
  - Speak and write with wisdom and eloquence.
  - Engage creation with wonder, pursuing beauty and working diligently.
  - Love and serve Christ the King, bringing shalom by sharing the Gospel and acting for the good of others.

#### Portrait of a Faculty Member

- A faculty member:
  - Embodies the Portrait of a Graduate.
  - Relates virtuously with students, parents, and colleagues. He speaks graciously, resolves conflict properly, and refrains from gossip.
  - Exercises authority virtuously. She has courage to address students' behavior and prudence to know when and how to do so most fruitfully. She avoids displays of power and manipulation, wielding her authority with kindness and benevolence.
  - Submits to authority humbly. He follows the guidelines set forth in the Veritas handbooks and given by administrators, and he applies the policies and practices while seeking to understand the philosophy behind them.
  - Demonstrates pedagogical competence. She has mastered the skills and content of her courses, instructing and assessing her students in humane and delightful ways. She organizes classroom time, space, and activities to maximize learning and peace.
  - Pursues deep learning. He seeks to increase his own education in the Christian tradition, the natural world, and his own teaching discipline.



## Portrait of a Master Faculty Member

- A master faculty member:
  - Embodies the Portrait of a Faculty Member.
  - Users her knowledge and experience to mentor and train other teachers, at Veritas and beyond.
  - Designs and develops curriculum that continues to recover the Classical Christian education model in the Veritas setting.
  - Things magnanimously about the Veritas mission, seeing how his own work fits into the larger endeavor and appreciating the work of other teachers while passionately pursuing his own.
  - Invests deeply in students, pursuing those in need and seeking to woo all to love the worthiest things. Students aspire to be like this teacher.
  - Embodies the mission and culture of Veritas as she represents the school to students, parents, Richmond, and the broader world.
  - Is a practitioner of what he teaches – writing, researching, and speaking in his field.
  - Exhibits Christian maturity.
    - They are able to take on the burdens of other people.

## Faculty of Friends

- Your friendships will spawn conversations and ideas that better you as a teacher.
- You could start a faculty reading group (maybe read some of the literature that your students are reading, read books about cultural issues to understand your students better).
- We know when a classroom doesn't align with the school. There should be a commonality amongst faculty in culture.
- Threats to the unity of the faculty of friends:
  - The most insidious threats to this faculty of friends is likely when we don't see our fellow faculty members as our first team.
  - We cannot need the approval of our students. When the students are the first team, and faculty are the second this leads to cracks in the relationships.
  - You have to have courage to send people to the right people if you are part of a triangulation.
- There is an opportunity to be mentored as well as to mentor those coming behind you.
  - Look around and identify other faculty members with the ways in which you need to grow.
  - Ask a faculty member to come and observe you.
  - Look for teachers who are skilled in the thing in which you are weak.
    - Organizationally
    - Relationally with students
- A faculty of friends lightens the load for one another.