

APOLOGETICS COURSE EXEMPLIFIES LPA STANDARDS

By Andy Herrick

When Paul, the prolific writer of 13 canonized New Testament letters, wrote to his young friend and minister, Timothy, he proclaimed: "All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." The author of Hebrews stated, "The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Lighthouse Preparatory Academy is unabashedly a Christian school, combining academics and character education to prepare students for their futures. The study of God's word, and all things connected to it, is an essential part of the curriculum. "Ethics & Apologetics," a class taught by Mrs. Debi White, is an exercise in Christian thought and education.

Ethics & Apologetics is a secondary intensive course that covers a myriad of different religions and philosophies throughout history, examining each from a Christian perspective. Class member Daniel Alexander, LPA senior, said, "Ethics & Apologetics is a challenging class that makes me think about Christianity today."

He and his fellow students have learned about the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (Jehovah's Witness), Secular Humanism, Hinduism, and others. While grappling with the tenets of these rather unfamiliar religions, the students are challenged to examine their own beliefs, and whether their beliefs can withstand unbiased, logical scrutiny. No matter what the topic, all things are taught and examined from a Christian perspective. Instructor White pointed out, "Ethics and Apologetics is important to LPA because students need to be encouraged to survey ancient and modern metaphysical, axiological, and epistemological systems in order to make distinctions between what does and does not appeal to righteousness, in the context of God's Word."

The buzz phrase is "in the context of God's word." LPA believes that true education is not just the accumulation of factual knowledge. As the school website states, "Character (development) is the goal. Education is the means. Excellence is the standard." Our administration and faculty stress education from a thoughtful, inquisitive, comprehensive, and Christian perspective.

White reiterated that when she concluded, "my hope is that students will walk away from this class understanding the huge responsibility they carry when sharing their faith. Being knowledgeable about scripture and what they believe is very, very important, but equally important is character - who they are when no one is looking, and wisdom - are they patient and kind; how do they present their faith? My hope is that they will be effective ambassadors for Christ."

Andy Herrick is a senior at Lighthouse Preparatory Academy.