

Latin Program



Why Latin?

As a classically-based school, we seek to enrich our students' lives through teaching Latin. The Bible teaches that there is no language where God's glory is not heard.

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard." (Psalm 19:1-6)

Latin is a foundational language for a classical education. Studying Latin allows students to see God's order in its nuances and structure. As they build their foundation of vocabulary, grammar and Latin derivatives, students also build on their knowledge of classical Roman history.

Latin is taught through its grammatical rules and, as a student's understanding of Latin grows, so does an understanding of the mechanics and structures of language as a whole. Dissecting sentences to discern their meaning imparts skills helpful with algebra and computer coding. As 60% of English vocabulary is Latin-based, this also provides a rich means of understanding our language. Latin is the language of science and law, and it is the foundation for the romance languages including Spanish, French and Italian. The mind of the student that has been educated in Latin takes on the qualities of Latin: logic, order, discipline, structure. Latin requires, and teaches attention to detail, which extend into the study of other subjects. As Latin is a foundational subject, students who are new to NorthCreek Academy are encouraged to attend our summer workshop introducing Latin fundamentals.

Second Grade

In second grade, students are introduced to Latin. Classes are held twice a week, for 30 minutes each using the text *Prima Latina Introduction to*

Christian Latin. Second graders learn basic Latin nouns, verbs and expressions, along with the framework for the pronunciation of vowels and consonant sounds. They also begin identifying English derivatives from Latin words like *sol* – sun and solar or *luna* – moon and lunar. By the end of second grade, students are able to recite verb and noun chants and to read and say *The Lord's Prayer (Pater Noster)* in Latin.

Third Grade

During third grade, students build on their basic knowledge of Latin nouns, verbs and sayings. Classes continue to be held twice a week, for 30 minutes, using the *Latina Christiana 1* text. Third graders learn approximately 200 Latin words and 25 Latin sayings. The objectives are to enrich the students' basic foundation of Latin grammar and to give them an understanding of the concepts of tense, number, and gender. In applying these concepts, students understand some basic language building blocks used in the vernacular of our judicial system and medical terminology. In their assignments, students translate from Latin to English and recognize Latin derivatives in English words. By the end of the year, students are able to conjugate verbs in the present, past (imperfect) and future tense.

Fourth Grade

In their twice-weekly, 30-minute classes, fourth grade students continue using *Latina Christiana 1* while working towards being able to produce translations from English to Latin. They also review the concepts of derivatives, noun genders and declensions (first and second) as well as verb conjugations in the present, past (imperfect) and future tenses. At the conclusion of the year, they are able to complete Latin sentences in which the subject and verb agree in number and person, and the adjectives and nouns agree



in number and gender. By applying these skills, fourth graders grow in their understanding of the Latin language as well as in acquiring a greater understanding of its grammar.

Fifth Grade

This year, students begin working with the *First Form 1* text in classes held two times a week, for 30 minutes each. Fifth graders apply their knowledge of Latin grammar and derivatives to begin producing basic translations from English to Latin, and from Latin to English. By year-end, students are able to understand and name the five Latin cases used to define nouns as subjects, objects or to express possession. They also work with first and second noun declensions and the first and second conjugations for verbs as they master approximately 400 Latin words and 25 Latin phrases. The geography of Italy is learned and students read stories about the beginnings of Rome and learn some basic Roman history.

Sixth Grade

This year, we begin the first part of a three-year program, using the textbook, *Latin Alive!* In this stage, we continue moving from memorizing vocabulary and patterns, to using them in sentences. Students continue working with the basic functions of nouns in sentences and expanding their use of adjectives. They also learn how to use the past-perfect tense and translate passages of one- to-three Latin paragraphs, based on Ancient Roman history. The year begins with the story of the Trojan War, and ends with *The Aeneid*. Translations are both from Latin to English and from English to Latin. Students create a Latin comic strip, with their own original story and sentences.

Seventh Grade

Students continue working with all previously learned declensions, conjugations, and verb

tenses and they learn about the ablative case. The third declension is added to the mix, along with second declension adjectives. Seventh graders are introduced to longer passages, as they begin translating stories about the Seven Kings of Rome. We introduce Latin mottos and proverbs and begin working more in-depth with English derivatives from Latin, producing a "Derivative Dictionary" at the end of the year. The big project for the seventh-grade year is a "Vocabulary Word Web," which connects derivatives and categories of words across all the vocabulary learned in Latin.

Eighth Grade

Students are introduced to the third conjugation, the genitive case, and other, more complex constructions that allow them to read and create more advanced sentences. Translations increase in length and complexity, as we continue to read about the history of Rome. The big project for the eighth grade year, is a Latin book filled with work including: mottos, derivatives, stories, a family tree and Roman numerals. At the end of the year, students have a unit working with basic Spanish, focusing on ways they can use their knowledge of Latin to make the transition to learning modern Romance languages.