

Why Offer Latin?



Minimus. The Latin Mouse

Salve! This means Hello or Welcome and is the root of the English word Salutations. It is the very first word my Latin students learn as I greet them with it each day. I have taught Walter Reed Middle School's Latin class for the last 7 years. Traditionally Latin has been offered to the IHP and Humanities Academy students. These academies seemed most likely to benefit from language instruction. However, I believe other Academy students would also gain a lot from studying Latin as well.

In Latin, students focus on:

- Vocabulary acquisition
 - *glossaries, translations
- Etymologies (Latin Roots)
 - *practices and discussions
- The structure of a Language
 - *Grammar and sentence construction
- Mythology and Roman Culture
 - *Creative Projects

1. Our students are looking to have careers in Science. Latin is the language of Science. Latin is the universal nomenclature for animal and plant species. It is also used in medical and other scientific terminology.
2. The English language is 60% Latin based. Learning Latin allows students to gain the root words to help expand their working vocabulary in English.
3. Spanish, French, Italian and other *Romance* languages are more than 90% Latin. Many of our bilingual students will see direct connections to their home language, which will strengthen their skills in both the spoken and written forms of their languages.
4. Learning a foreign language in middle school gives students a head start for when they are required to take a foreign language in high school.
5. In sixth grade, our students study Ancient History, which includes units in Greece and Rome. The Latin curriculum includes lessons in Roman history as well as Greco-Roman mythology, which enhances our students' understanding of the foundations of Western culture.
6. Much of the vocabulary acquired in Latin transfers directly to 6th grade Math and Science courses. Words like *integer*, *circumference*, and *dormant* come directly from Latin and are key terms in other classes.
7. Recently, the popularity of Rick Riordan's mythology-based adventure novels for kids has made students more excited about learning the ancient stories of Greece, Rome, and Egypt.
8. Latin is fun! Over the past few years, Latin has been a very popular class amongst our students. The book we use, *Minimus*, is very kid-friendly and accessible and the creative projects we do keep artistic students motivated.

*Vale,
Ms. Tomlinson*