

UPPER SCHOOL LATIN PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Students between ages 10 and 16 are ready for intense Latin. The study of Latin in particular will develop the child's powers of memory and observation and enrich his studies of English Grammar, Ancient History, Mythology, Geography and Science. We encourage Latin students to participate in the Junior Classical League and Certamen competitions in order to broaden their knowledge of classical history, mythology, and culture.

Latin Classes will cover much more than Latin Grammar—students will learn English Grammar, Ancient History, Mythology, Classical Literature, and Roman Culture and may choose to participate in local, state, and national contests. Typical vocabulary study by other methods involves long, unrelated lists of words, lists that are often dutifully learned for a quiz and soon forgotten. By learning vocabulary in the context of an intensive study of Latin, students understand how words are constructed as well as how language works. This kind of analytical vocabulary study gives an exponential access to new words, one that is not dependent on yet another boring vocabulary list. English words learned in this context are never forgotten, and are used fluently in all their parts of speech and with all modifying prefixes. By mastering Latin (rather than simply studying some Latin), students become attuned to nuances in English words and syntax that are accessible only through a deep grasp of grammar. Previously unfamiliar words and subtle concepts are thus rendered readily and independently comprehensible, simply on the basis of possessing the keys to language—the tools to learning.