

Latin

Grades 7-12

Overview

There are as many different reasons to embark upon the study of Latin as there are learners. Some students may love the mythology that they first encountered in a favorite book and want to learn more. Others may be drawn by the excitement of gladiators in the arena or the foundational importance of the Romans in the unfolding of history. Still others may seek to gain a deeper understanding of the vocabulary, grammar, and style of their own language or another modern language studied. No matter the motivation, all students can benefit greatly from the study of Latin as it reveals the very roots of Western civilization, including the foundations of law, architecture, medicine, science, philosophy, and religious thought. Students of Latin gain an increased understanding of the vocabulary and grammar of their own language, in turn enhancing awareness of their cultural and linguistic past, illuminating their present, and providing guidance into their future.

Good instruction is designed to help all students achieve success by including a variety of instructional strategies, by conducting formal and informal assessments for the provision of continual feedback on progress, and by using all available technology for teachers and students. Careful attention will be paid to the progress and needs of individual students as they move through the levels of language proficiency – novice, intermediate, and advanced. At each level, students’ proficiency can be described as low, middle, or high, as in “novice middle” or “intermediate low.” Effective teaching takes into account each student’s proficiency level when designing instruction and assessment.

The Latin curriculum is organized around the five goal areas of language learning: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. It is impossible to effectively approach one of the goal areas with any success without also engaging the other four.

The **Communication** goal area focuses on reading, writing, and speaking increasingly complex Latin and occurs in three modes: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. The study of Latin primarily aims at the interpretive mode, with the presentational and interpersonal modes supporting the learning process.

The **Cultures** goal area centers on the perspectives of the Romans as expressed in cultural products such as architecture or mythology and cultural practices such as Roman government or daily life.

The **Connections** goal area links the study of Latin to other disciplines in order to use knowledge of Latin in personal, academic, and career-related contexts.

The **Comparisons** goal area prompts investigation and reflection through comparisons of Latin and Roman culture to modern language and culture.

The **Communities** goal area fosters communication and interaction with other language learners in order to take Latin out of the classroom both locally and globally.

These standards describe the minimum required content for the five levels of Latin, grades 7 through 12. While the standards in regular and advanced classes are the same, students in advanced-level classes will have a different learning experience. There is an expectation that comprehension and proficiency will be more profound. Students will use higher level thinking skills as they explore the content and more abstract thinking will be necessary. Students in advanced classes may be required to complete more work outside of class than students in a regular class. Assessments may be more complex and may require that the student make connections and organize thoughts more efficiently. *The World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages, Standards for Classical Language Learning, and Standards for Latin Teacher Preparation* were consulted in the preparation of these standards.