

# LATIN

Mr. Patrick Sheehan

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*Salve!* Hello! Welcome to Latin class at Trinity Catholic School! I am *Magister* (instructor) Patrick Sheehan and will be your foreign language teacher in Middle School. I am looking forward to helping you experience the benefits of learning a foreign language, and, specifically, how Latin has shaped our World.

## **Why Latin?**

Latin may not be a regularly spoken language in the 21st century, but it was the primary language of scholarship throughout Europe, North Africa and parts of the Middle East for over 15 centuries! Famous historical figures from St. Augustine to President Thomas Jefferson studied, read, and wrote in Latin. Latin has significantly shaped the English language and directly led to the development of the modern Romance languages: French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Romanian. Learning Latin has practical applications in many career fields today (*i.e.* Law, Medicine, Science) and consistently proves to be an excellent way to improve your English language vocabulary. Students who study Latin generally perform better on standardized exams (*e.g.* SAT). You will also better comprehend your future college-level coursework in subject areas such as literature, history, philosophy, among many others. Finally, Catholics will better understand the rich heritage of our Faith, including the traditional Latin mass, prayers and devotions.

## **Curriculum**

### ***6th Grade Latin***

*Discipuli* (students) will be in Latin class three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). In 6th grade, I will introduce the basics of Latin pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. This class will also explore the culture of the Roman Empire and the wider Ancient World. Topics covered will include Greco-Romano mythology, Roman history, and classical literature. *Discipuli* will develop basic Latin language comprehension skills by practicing: listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural understanding.

### **Textbook:**

- ☐ Throughout the year we will utilize **ECCE ROMANI I: A Latin Reading Program**, 4th Ed. (Prentice Hall Series.)
- ☐ Additionally, *Discipuli* will receive a paperback copy of **Blackships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad** by Rosemary Sutcliff.

How to support at home:

I encourage parents to periodically review your child's Latin notebook, Google Classroom Latin class page, and ensure they are studying vocabulary words on a consistent basis (use of flashcards/quizlet to review vocabulary every other night is strongly recommended.) I provided handouts frequently. **It will be helpful for your child to have transparent sheet protectors to place distributed prayers, maps, and classwork.**

***7th Grade Latin***

*Discipuli* (students) will be in Latin class three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). In 7th grade, I will challenge students to expand their grammar and vocabulary skills. This class will give you a headstart to begin Latin I at the high school level. We will add to our cultural knowledge of the role Latin played in the Roman Catholic faith and the role the language played in knitting together European kingdoms of the Middle Ages. Topics covered will include Middle Age literature and Ecclesiastical Latin, among many others. *Discipuli* will develop further their Latin language comprehension skills by practicing: listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural understanding.

Textbook:

- ☐ Throughout the year we will utilize ***Latin for Children, Primer A*** (Classical Academic Press.) I anticipate covering the first two Units (the first ten chapters) this year. Each student will receive a copy of the textbook (to be returned to me at the end of the year.)
- ☐ Additionally: throughout the year I will provide packets of various, supplemental readings including from: a ***Roman Diary: The Journal of Iliona, Young Slave*** (Historical Diaries), by Richard Platt Sutcliff; and, ***The Lives of the Noble Greeks and Romans***, Plutarch, edited for children.

How to support at home:

I encourage parents to periodically review your child's Latin notebook, Google Classroom Latin class page, and ensure they are studying vocabulary words on a consistent basis (use of flashcards to review vocabulary every other night is strongly recommended.) **It will be helpful for your child to have transparent sheet protectors to place distributed prayers, maps, and classwork.**

### ***8th Grade Latin***

This class will help to develop the necessary skills to complete Latin I and earn high school credit for a year of foreign language study. (See specifics in the box below). *Discipuli* (students) have Latin class five days a week. We will continue to add to our cultural understanding of the historically Latin-speaking world. Topics covered will include Latin poetry and literature (e.g. *The Aeneid*), Roman Republican and Imperial history (*Bella Punica*, *Quinque Boni Imperatores*, etc.), and the history of Roman Catholicism. *Discipuli* will intensively develop their Latin language comprehension skills by practicing: listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural understanding.

#### Textbook:

- ☐ ***Jenney's First Year Latin, 1984***, Allyn & Bacon. We will work with this text throughout the year. Our goal is to cover the first 16-20 chapters.
- ☐ Most students have been given a three-ring binder with the text. Students must sign for the binder (which will be numbered) and parents must counter sign as well. Students must return the binders at the end of the year in good working order.

#### How to support at home:

I encourage parents to periodically review your child's Latin notebook, Google Classroom Latin class page, and ensure they are studying vocabulary words on a consistent basis (10-15 minutes a night is strongly recommended, especially with flash cards. Students will master approximately 200 new Latin words this year and consistent use of flashcards/quizlets has been proven to help memory retention with vocabulary words.) **It will be helpful for your child to have transparent sheet protectors to place distributed prayers, maps, and classwork.**

#### How to Earn High School Credit:

- ☐ **PLEASE NOTE: to earn high school credit students must maintain a B average EACH semester. Further, a student must maintain classroom citizenship scores of 1 or 2 each semester.**
- ☐ **At the end of the First Semester:** I will reach out to the students (and their parents) who struggled to maintain a B average. We will work out an individual plan for the second semester. In most cases, the students concentrate their second semester on vocabulary studies and forgo further grammar studies. These students receive credit and a grade for "Latin 8th grade," but will not be given a letter to take to their high school indicating credit earned for Latin I. The concentration on vocabulary work during the second semester will help these students not only boost their gpa in 8th grade Latin, but, importantly, should improve their chances of earning high marks if they choose to retake Latin I in high school.

- Students who maintain a B average in the first semester but then struggle in the second semester: I will consistently monitor grades and performance. If at any time a student seems to struggle consistently, I will reach out to the parents/ guardians and we will discuss ways to get back on track.

### **Grading Scale**

Homework: 10 points

Quizzes: 30 points

Tests: 50 points

Midterm/Final: 100 points

### **Make-up Assignments and Late Work**

Please communicate absences with me by email so that I can prepare homework or make arrangements for make-up quizzes.

- **Students who are late turning in homework assignments will receive a 10% reduction in grade each day it is late.**
- Students who have an excused absence and miss a quiz MUST make the quiz up the first day they return to school.
- Any other concerns should be brought to my attention in advance.
- Magister may offer students a chance to turn in “corrections” to incorrect answers on quizzes. The bonus added to the final quiz score for corrections will be based on a tiered system. Students scoring **above a 70%** on the original quiz will be able to add 1 point on a 30 point scale grade to their quiz score (5% bonus approximately). For students scoring a 70% or lower 2 points on a 30 point scale (approx. 10% bonus) may be offered. Example: a student incorrectly answering 2 questions (4 points) on a quiz will receive a 26/30 grade (87% B). If allowed by Magister to turn in corrections they could receive a modified 27/30 (90% A).
- If there are extenuating circumstances, Magister may allow a retake of a quiz and will then average the original and retake score to derive a final grade.

### **Behavior Management Plan (Updated 2024-25)**

- We are implementing a written system of *Admonitiones* (warnings) and *Commendationes* (compliments) this year in all grades. For further elucidation please see the sheet I placed on Google Classroom (“*Primus Dies: First Day*” materials.) Resource section of the page.)
- Students will receive a verbal warning after first infraction; an *Admonitiones* following a second infraction (and **assigned Latin prayers to memorize**); and finally after a third violation, an **SBN** after the class. Students must take the SBN home to be signed and return the following school day.
- PLEASE ALSO SEE the new K.N.I.G.H.T.S Conduct Grading policies implemented for the 24-25 Academic Year. I will be following them.

## **Supplies**

Students must bring the following items to class each day: planner, Latin textbook (if applicable), a **folder (school recommended Blue notebook) with pockets** and **composition notebook**, pencils or pen. I strongly recommend each student buy a stack of **5 x 8 index cards** to use in making vocabulary flashcards. I will be providing the students many vocabulary and pronunciation handouts throughout each quarter, as well as study guides prior to quizzes and tests. Students should ensure that they save these and keep them organized in their Latin folder and composition notebook. Three-holed **page protector sleeves (clear pockets)** that can be added to your notebook are useful so students can refer back to these reference materials throughout the year.

## **Communication**

### ***Google Classroom***

Google Classroom is a collaboration tool for teachers and students. Teachers create an online classroom, invite students to the class then create and distribute assignments. Within the Google Classroom students and teachers can have conversations about the assignments and teachers can track the student's progress. This is an organizational tool for the students to see all assignments and to-do lists in one place. I will upload to our Google Class page many digital copies of the hard copy reference materials and handouts I provide during class. Students are required to check the Google Classroom consistently. Parents are able to receive communication as well to see what the students are working on.

### ***E-mail***

**The most effective method of communication between teacher and parents is e-mail.** Parents should expect to receive a reply from me within 24 hours. Students may confer directly with me to resolve any questions or concerns, after class, or by appointment. Students may use their school-issued email account to communicate, if there is not an opportunity in class.

### ***Phone Calls***

Please email me first with ideas, concerns, and questions. Generally I will provide my phone number after the first email and will follow up by phone. You may also ask Ms. Susan Gallivan in our front office for my phone number and contact me during school hours that way.

### ***PowerSchool***

Parents and students are responsible for checking PowerSchool on a regular basis to monitor progress. Please bring concerns to my attention as soon as they appear. Parents and teachers will work together to promote student progress. Questions regarding access to PowerSchool should be directed to the front office.