

WHY LATIN?



Some may tell you that Latin is a dead language. Not so. Latin is a learned language—though it is nobody’s native tongue, Latin has been in continuous use since the days of ancient Rome! Latin also survives in modern Romance languages (just as Old English does in modern English), and it survives through its influence on our own modern world. *Latina vivit!* Latin lives, everywhere you look. Here are some other reasons why you should take Latin:

- I. TIME TRAVEL. You will read classic works of Western literature in the original language, communicating with authors like Vergil and Caesar; you will broaden your cultural perspective as you study the Romans and their enormous impact on modern society.
- II. FUNDAMENTALS. Latin will improve your grammar, writing, language and vocabulary skills; its syntax is similar to those of Germanic & Slavic languages; 65% of English vocabulary, and 75-80% of Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese, derives from Latin; it is the basis of much scientific, medical, and legal terminology (Latin students know their *homo sapiens* from their *habeas corpus*); it is the very definition of college preparation.
- III. TEST SCORES. Foreign language study, particularly the study of Latin, can increase your standardized test scores – the mean SAT scores for 2013 were:

	<u>Critical Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>
Total Mean	496	514	488
LATIN	556	556	542
Chinese	535	606	536
German	530	540	510
French	519	525	509
Spanish	498	508	488

The mean SAT scores for 2013 for students also taking a foreign language subject test were:

	<u>Critical Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>
LATIN SAT II	680	676	678
Chinese/Listening SAT II	588	686	608
German SAT II	631	651	637
French SAT II	638	641	645
Spanish SAT II	591	599	600

- IV. ANALYTICAL SKILLS. Latin’s non-English structure will develop alertness, attention to detail, memory, logic, and critical reasoning.



V. COLLEGE ADMISSIONS. You will impress admissions officers (especially if you study Latin for the full four years), who recognize the discipline, depth of analysis, and understanding required to study classical texts.

“Latin trains abstract thinking, provides a key to all modern Romance languages, is a model for interdisciplinary study (language, history, culture) and can be a lot of fun.”

-Michael C. Behnke, Vice President
for Enrollment, University of Chicago

“Students taking Latin are typically scholarly. They pursue academic study in the purest sense, they are not simply fulfilling a requirement.”

-Matthew Potts, Admissions
Counselor, University of Notre Dame

“We add on extra ‘weight’ when we see Latin on a transcript.”

-Philip Ballinger, Dean of
Admissions, Gonzaga University

“We give the most consideration to students who have taken the highest level language available at their school.”

-Robert Killion, Office of
Admissions, Haverford College

VI. FRIENDSHIP. You can find your niche among a group of unique and independent thinkers with similar interests, and continue the fun from class during Latin Club meetings and state and national conventions.

VII. REVELRY. You will enjoy the stories of Graeco-Roman mythology and the fantastic history of the Romans; you will revel in the mysteries of a 2,500 year old language; after all, *lingua Latina gaudium et utilis est!* Latin is fun and useful!

For more, visit the CCHS Latin website at

<https://sites.google.com/site/cherrycreeklatin/why-latin>



LATIN IS ALIVE at Cherry Creek High School!

- We offer a **four-year sequence**, with **AP Latin** in the fourth year. The AP exam scores are consistently excellent, with nearly all students earning the top scores of 4 and 5.
- We value an interdisciplinary approach, in which Latin grammar and vocabulary are learned within the context of Roman history, mythology, and culture. We make frequent connections between Latin and English, as well.
- Our **Latin Club** is a chapter of the **National Junior Classical League**, an international organization for students of Latin and Greek. We attend the two-day state convention in Estes Park every year, where we compete with about 400 Latin students from across Colorado and have a lot of fun!
- We take the **National Latin Exam**. Every year approximately 150,000 students from all 50 states and 13 foreign countries take this exam. Our students have a solid track record of winning awards, including many gold and silver medals.
- We have two Latin teachers, Amy Sommer (720-554-2490) and Scott Holcomb (720-554-2093). Feel free to contact them with any questions!