

## **Why Latin?**

Some people may question the use of Latin. The argument goes, "Latin is a dead language. Why should my child study it?"

While Latin may not be spoken today in common dialogue, it is far from "dead". Latin is alive and well in many of our English words as well as other languages. Most of the words we use in English were derived from Latin. Therefore, an understanding of these Latin roots increases the range and depth of a student's vocabulary. Higher Verbal SAT scores by students who study Latin as compared with students who do not demonstrate this benefit of learning Latin.

Learning Latin teaches a child how a language works. Mastering the subtleties and nuances of Latin grammar aids students in the comprehension of complex English sentences. Students learn how English works by learning how Latin works. Latin study, therefore, contributes greatly to a student's understanding of our own English language.

Since Latin is a systematic language, students learn how to distinguish between subtle forms and differences. Students go beyond basic memorization of words. They learn practical principles and rules of language. Therefore, the study of Latin develops logical thinking - another aspect of a Classical education.

The study of Latin also exposes the student to Latin authors. These were the greatest writers and thinkers in Western Civilization over the past 2000 years. These writers helped shape our western culture as we know it because for years Latin carried the greatest writings in theology, literature, history, science, and philosophy. Students are therefore exposed to the greatest in rhetorical tradition. What better way to learn the art of skillful communication than from the masters of our own intellectual history?

The study of Latin therefore is a key component of a Classical education. We therefore proudly offer it and look forward to how it will shape our students' thinking and education as a whole.