

# Give Yourself a Competitive Advantage— Take Latin



## WHY STUDY LATIN?

*Latin isn't dead—it's alive everywhere!*

- Latin helps create more disciplined minds and well-trained memories. It requires a great deal of analytical and systematic thinking, and builds those functional, critical thinking skills that are readily transferable to other disciplines.
- Studying Latin usually makes students more proficient in English and helps them become better writers.
- Vocabulary, vocabulary, vocabulary!!!
- Latin is extremely valuable in the study of other languages, particularly the Romance languages—Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese and Romanian.
- Learning about classical civilization helps students develop a better understanding of government and a deepened sense of civic responsibility.
- Learning about classical civilization helps students both to understand the roots of Western Civilization and to respect diversity in others.
- Learn about mythology, important figures in history, and geographical references to help with present and future studies in history and literature! The lyric poetry of Herrick, Keats, and Shelley would be nowhere without the old Romans like Catullus and Horace. The study of Latin will enhance the enjoyment of classic authors such as Homer, Chaucer, and Shakespeare or modern authors such as Rick Riordan (The Percy Jackson series), Suzanne Collins (The Hunger Games), and, of course, J.K. Rowling.
- The benefits of Latin in preparing students for a future in law, medicine, science, writing, teaching, business, banking, politics, international relations, and a host of others are well documented, but did you know that employers in Silicon Valley, who must train their employees on the job, are now looking for college graduates who have proved their worth in school with a Classical education?
- LATIN IS FUN!!!

## LATIN AND THE SAT

Does Latin help your SAT scores? The answer is once again a definitive YES! The scores of students who took the SAT II in various languages are listed below so that the correlation between language studied and reading and writing scores may be seen. The last published data for mean SAT scores were:

	Reading	Writing
<b>Latin:</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>677</b>
Chinese	571	589
French:	633	642
German:	626	635
Hebrew:	612	631
Spanish:	570	572
All students:	501	492

But the Latin advantage doesn't end with admission to college. Data for the GRE taken by college seniors intending to attend graduate school show that Classical Language majors had the highest mean score on the verbal section of the GRE of the approximately 300 majors listed! They had the third highest mean score on the analytical writing section, and scored higher than any other language on the quantitative section!



## Recent Walton Latin Accomplishments:

- Walton has won the state championship at the Georgia Junior Classical League Convention 7 years in a row and 14 of the last 15.
- Walton Latin students are chosen every year to participate in the Governor's Honors Program as Latin Majors.
- Walton students win an amazing number of awards at Georgia Junior Classical League and National Junior Classical League Conventions. The National Junior Classical League is one of the largest academic youth organizations in the world.
- Walton students win more awards on the Medusa Mythology Exam than any school in the world. On this year's Medusa Exam, of the 59 perfect papers in the world, 22 were from Walton.
- Over 130 Walton Latin students won awards on the National Latin Exam last year (highest number in Georgia). Walton also had the highest number of perfect scores in Georgia. Over 140,000 students from the U.S. and abroad took the NLE last year.
- More Walton students won awards on the CAMWS Translation Exam than any other school in Georgia! Recently Walton had more award winners on the CAMWS Exam than any other school in the world!
- Walton Latin students excel on the National Classical Etymology Exam, National Latin Vocabulary Exam, and the National Roman Civilization Exam. 15 students in the nation each year receive cash awards for their performance on those tests. we have averaged 2/15.
- Walton students regularly make up the certamen teams (*certamen* is Latin Academic Bowl) which represent Georgia at the National Junior Classical League Convention held each summer. One of these Georgia teams recently won the national championship!
- Walton has a large, friendly, thriving Latin Club—one of the largest and most active clubs at Walton and one of the best in the country!
- Walton Latin students are regularly selected as Georgia Classical Association student of the year and serve on the GJCL board.
- Walton Latin students have been school valedictorian and salutatorian at an extremely disproportionately high rate. Walton Latin students are regularly accepted into top universities such as Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, M.I.T., and Georgia Tech. Many admissions officials have stated that Latin students are favored in the admissions process.

## FAMOUS CLASSICS MAJORS

Many successful people have majored in the Classics, and vast numbers of them have studied the Classics in high school and college. Here are some that majored in Classics:

- **Ted Turner**, founder of CNN, TBS, and more
- **J. K. Rowling**, author of the Harry Potter novels
- **C.S. Lewis**, author of the *Chronicles of Narnia*
- **Vince Lombardi**, legendary football coach of the Green Bay Packers
- **W.E.B. DuBois**, sociologist, co-founder of NAACP, and author
- **Robert Millikan** and **Anthony Leggett**, winners of the Nobel Prize in Physics
- **Chuck Geschke**, former CEO and co-founder of Adobe Systems
- **Friedrich W. Nietzsche**, philosopher and author
- **Chris Martin**, singer for the band Coldplay
- **Toni Morrison**, author and winner of Nobel Prize for Literature-1993
- **Sigmund Freud**, pioneer in psychoanalysis and author
- **Jane Addams**, social worker, founder of Hull House, Nobel Peace Prize-1931
- **James Baker**, former United States Secretary of State
- **Jonathan Evans**, head of the famous British intelligence agency MI5
- **William Cohen**, former United States Secretary of Defense
- **Lynn Sherr**, correspondent, ABC-TV's "20-20"
- **Robert Graves**, poet
- **Boris Johnson**, Prime Minister of the UK
- **Teller** of Penn and Teller, Magicians
- **Tom Hiddleston**, actor (Loki in the Avengers movies, etc.)



For more information visit

[www.waltonlatinclub.weebly.com](http://www.waltonlatinclub.weebly.com)

For questions contact Mr. Farnsworth at Walton:  
[alan.farnsworth@cobbk12.org](mailto:alan.farnsworth@cobbk12.org)

## Almost all of those great charms in Harry Potter are in Latin. Here are a few:

DENSAUGEO [*dens* "tooth." & *augeo* "I increase"]: a charm to increase the size of a person's teeth

EXPELLIARMUS [*expelle* "expel" & *arma* "weapons"]: a disarming charm

FINITE INCANTATEM [*finite* "end" & *incantatem* "charm"]: a charm to stop all other charms currently functioning

LUMOS [*lumen* "light, daylight"]: a charm to make a tiny light appear on the end of a wand to use as a flashlight

NOX [*nox* "night"]: a charm to extinguish light; opposite of Lumos

MOBILIARBUS [*mobilis* "movable" & *arbor* "tree"]: a charm to move trees

MOBILICORPUS [*mobilis* "movable" & *corpus* "body"]: a charm to move an unconscious person

EXPECTO PATRONUM [*expecto* "I await" & *patronum* "patron"]: a charm to produce a Patronus to fight off Dementors

