

Why Latin?

- If you decide to take Latin, you will learn **Latin grammar, vocabulary**, etc, but what you probably don't know is that you'll also learn **Roman history, life, and culture, and Greek and Roman mythology**. Knowledge of the culture and history of ancient Rome will not only help you in Latin competitions, but also in other classes you take at Northside, specifically history classes. Learning Latin vocabulary will also no doubt help you in English class, as over 60% of English words come from Latin.
- If you decide to take two languages at Northside, or learn another language at a later time, it will be much easier after taking Latin, especially if you choose Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, or Romanian, which are all common Romance languages, and therefore, all come from Latin.
- Latin also helps in other subject areas, which you may find surprising at first:
 - In one study, students who studied Latin developed **reading skills** that were four months ahead of those students who studied French or Spanish.
 - Students are also ahead in **math problem solving abilities**, as Latin teaches you a new way of thinking required to translate complex sentences which are not always written in the order which we would read them in in English (a prime example of this is that many Northside Latin students are currently part of the Northside Math Team, and are doing very well at math competitions)
 - Latin will also help you in: **world knowledge, science, social sciences, and study skills**
- Latin also provides you with:
 - The ability to read classical authors in the original language
 - The ability to access key documents of the Western world
 - The ability to avoid the biases and misconceptions of translators of classical authors
 - Direct contact with the wisdom and thought of the classical and medieval authors
- Since 2000, students who take Latin have outperformed students who take other languages on the SAT every year.

SAT Scores	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Latin	665	665	666	672	674	681	672	678
All Students	505	506	504	507	508	508	503	502
French	636	633	637	638	642	643	637	637
German	621	625	622	626	627	637	632	632
Spanish	589	583	581	575	575	573	577	574
Hebrew	623	628	629	628	630	620	623	622

- Northside Latin is also part of the **Junior Classical League (JCL)**, which is currently the largest Classical organization in the world. Northside Latin students participate in the Illinois JCL Convention, which is 3 days long, and involves academic, creative arts, and graphic arts competitions. In the summer, there is also the National JCL competition, which is an extended form of the state conventions and is held in universities around the country.

- **Certamen** is also a vital part of Northside Latin, which is a quiz-bowl type of game, where teams answer questions related to the Latin language, history, culture, and mythology. Northside competes with schools from across the state in the Illinois Certamen League, and also at JCL competitions.



For more information about the Latin program at Northside, please visit our website at www.ncplatin.org