

Latin III

Salve! Welcome to Latin III and the new school year!

Official Course Description

This class reinforces and expands student knowledge of the Roman world. Students will increase their understanding of Latin vocabulary and grammar with the goal of reading authentic Latin at a level commensurate with their skills. Texts become increasingly sophisticated in vocabulary, structure, and depth of meaning. The strong cultural component of the Latin sequence will continue with an emphasis on elaborating the readings. Authors may include Caesar, Petronius, Pliny, Tacitus, Catullus, Vergil, Horace, Ovid, Martial, or others.

What This Means for You

In Latin III this year, we are sharing the room with the AP Latin, which is preparing for the AP examination over Vergil's *Aeneid*, perhaps *the* masterpiece of Western literature. The total size of the two combined classes remains small, so even though distinct levels are running simultaneously, there will nonetheless be substantial opportunity for individual attention from and interaction with the teacher. Where reasonable or practical, Latin III students may opt to continue their study of Latin vocabulary and grammar as well as of classical civilization in conjunction with AP. By overlapping some of our study topics, *teacher time available for both levels increases* beyond a 50-50 split. For example, if we work on a grammar topic together for 20 minutes and I then divide the remaining class time equally between the levels, both classes receive approximately 35 minutes of teacher time instead of only 25.

Since the AP course offered at Marquette next year will include the *Aeneid*, any work done on the *Aeneid* now becomes *an important investment in future success on the AP exam*. For example, if the current Latin III students were to translate an average of *just one line* of the *Aeneid per day this year*, they would enter AP Latin with over **20% of the required Aeneid lines already completed!**

Latin III students in the past have also worked on selections from Caesar's *Gallic War*, which is scheduled to become an AP text in 2012-13. Again, any familiarity with Caesar's writings this year will aid students in AP Latin next year.

I have successfully taught this same split class before; I hope that the families involved feel after two years together that they can trust me enough to do everything in my power to teach their students and bring them to the next level of achievement.

Our major objective remains improving our ability to read and translate Latin. We will work to complete our study of standard grammar and further our reading ability by working with authentic Latin texts. Here is my promise to you and your parents: I will never hold Latin III students accountable to the same standards as the AP students, even if, from time to time, both levels are working on somewhat overlapping materials.

Under no circumstances is weighted grade credit available for Latin III, but you will never be required to complete the same workload or be tested as rigorously as students in fourth year. However, qualified students in second semester are eligible to enroll for dual credit Latin at Saint Louis University and earn three hours of college credit for their high school work.

How to Insure Your Success

Good study skills, regular attendance, and strong self-motivation will remain the key components of your success. Complete all daily assignments, maintain up-to-date notes, keep all handouts, participate actively in class, review frequently, and seek assistance when needed. Make sure you learn the assigned vocabulary and grammar concepts (especially the endings!) covered in class. ***Remember that any failure on your part to complete the work or behave in a manner commensurate with university-level instruction jeopardizes not only your own grade, but also endangers the success of the fourth-year student on the AP exam. Please show the same consideration to her that you would hope to receive in an identical situation.***