

Are you thinking... *No time for Latin in Middle School?*

*Too much pressure to teach core skills?*

*Can't afford anything that doesn't raise testing scores?*

You may want to consider the facts and think again!

Adding Latin to your curriculum doesn't take away time from teaching required skills --  
It can be a very effective and engaging way to teach them!

Learning Latin.....

- strengthens basic English skills in vocabulary and reading comprehension
- focuses on grammar which leads to improved English writing and communication
- increases cultural awareness and makes cultural connections
- encourages critical thinking and comparative analysis
- introduces students to a rich source of mythology, literature and history

AND Latin presents material REQUIRED in Language Arts and Social Studies Standards in Grades 6-8.

The value of Latin is immediate. Past studies have shown that younger students made big gains after exposure to Latin:

- 1) Remedial English students ended the year 5 months ahead of others with no foreign language instruction and 4 months ahead of those taught French and Spanish. (District of Columbia)
- 2) Students taught Latin 15 minutes a day for one year scored ONE FULL YEAR HIGHER on the Iowa Vocabulary subtest than the control group. (Philadelphia)
- 3) Sixth graders in Indianapolis, who studied Latin for 30 minutes a day, after the first 5 months had made gains over control groups of:
  - , 1 full year in both reading and language
  - , 9 months in math problem solving
  - , 7 months in social studies
  - , 5 months in science
  - , 4 months in spelling

In her article "Lively Latin Boosts English Skills and Reinforces Core Subjects," Virginia Barrett offers several cogent observations:

Studying Latin vocabulary brings students in contact "with word roots, prefixes and suffixes which constitute 60% of all English words and 90% of those over two syllables long. Students acquire the building blocks of English... Evidence [has shown] dramatic improvement in student reading scores on standardized tests nationwide, especially of Black and Hispanic students in urban schools."

Barrett notes that students can also relate more easily to many terms they are asked to learn in geography, biology, astronomy, math, civics and social studies. Most English grammar terms are borrowed from Latin, too. In fact, hundreds of Latin words are still commonly used today with virtually no change in spelling or meaning!

The Roman Empire was expansive in both territory and influence. It was also a multi-ethnic, multi-racial society. Thus students can relate many aspects of Roman society to their modern world. Barrett adds:

“Children of all ethnic backgrounds [can] gain access to a classical tradition shared by North and South Americans, Eastern and Western Europeans, and many third world nations.”

Click [here](#) to request a FREE packet “ Carpe Diem! Resources for Starting a Middle School Latin program” which offers facts, figures and textbook options for a new Latin program.

Click [here](#) to find a qualified Latin instructor.

Click [here](#) to find teaching materials and resources.

Click [here](#) to locate state and local support organizations.

[Contributed by Katie Robinson, Chair, NCLG Committee for Latin in the Middle School]