

# THE CONSUL

Open House Issue -- Published: a.d. vii Idus Februarias MMXIX A.D.

The official publication of the  
Miramonte Latin Club - Special Edition

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Miramonte Latin Club

Open House Issue

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Clockwise from top left: 1. Dozens of MHS Latin students attended Ludi Novembres, a smaller (yet just as fun!) version of the State Latin Convention. 2. Celebrating Augustus's Birthday, Magister and Magistra participate in an annual class ritual. 3. Many MHS students attended the National Latin Convention in 2018 along with Latin students from other California schools.

## WELCOME TO MHS LATIN!

Article by: Zahra Hasanain, MHS Latin Alumna

Salvete Amici! Hello, Friends, and welcome to Miramonte Latin! Here, you'll never again think of Latin as a language reserved for cold, dead men. In fact, there's nothing more enlivening than hearing a room full of enthusiastic Latin students reciting "Exegi monumentum aere perennius..." in unison at the start of every class. These ancient lines from Horace remind us of the importance of building "a monument more lasting than bronze," or using our potential for a purpose greater than ourselves. What sets Miramonte Latin apart is our commitment to creating a friendly community to celebrate Ancient Greece and Rome.

Every Latin student is also a part of Latin Club. Latin Club is the most active club on campus, and a place where students of different interests and backgrounds congregate once a week to plan or partake in fun activities relating to the ancient world. From Freshmen to Seniors, everyone offers their opinions in an accepting and open environment. This non-hierarchical spirit means that even from the start of high school, you'll be able to find a community that makes you excited to come to school. Whether we're performing auguries (ancient bird watching) at our annual Saturnalia (Roman Christmas) party, or celebrating Augustus's birthday with a feast, Latin Club

makes Latin fun.

Latin Club also provides a variety of opportunities for students to nourish their love for Latin. Do you enjoy watching Jeopardy!? Then try your hand at Certamen, or Latin Jeopardy. Are you fond of writing? Then write for our bi-monthly newsletter, The Consul. Do you love making things? Then create art inspired by classical themes or help us improve our chariot for the chariot contest at the California Junior Classical League's annual State Latin Convention. At Latin Convention, students can showcase their passions as they relate to Latin, whether they like academics, art, athletics, or even socializing.

Lastly, our stellar teachers, Magister Davis and Magistra Mullooney, guide Latin Club and make translating ancient stories more relevant and intriguing with their enthusiasm and passion. Latin class is not an hour and a half of dry lecturing, but rather a mix of entertaining lecturing and hands-on learning, with a group and individually. If a student is struggling, both teachers are willing to get them caught up outside of class and work with them until they're confident in their abilities. Even in class, the collaborative environment Magister Davis and Magistra Mullooney foster encourages students to help each other as well.

Latin is one of Miramonte's most unique,

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# LATIN IN LITERATURE

Article by: Brendan McFeeley

“You know that in Latin, ‘Festus’ means ‘happy’? You want us to ride off to save the world on Happy the dragon!?” You might recognize this line if you’re a fan of Rick Riordan’s 2010 book, *The Lost Hero*. If there’s one thing Riordan loves, it’s Latin and the Greco-Roman world. In 2005, Rick Riordan published *The Lightning Thief*, expressing the story of Greek mythology through the lens of an eleven-year old American boy’s adventures. His books have become wildly successful, spanning since then until at least 2019. With three completed book series and one ongoing, all chronicling the mythology of the Greeks, Egyptians, and Norse, Riordan combines humor, charm, and human character into page-turners for kids and adults alike. With characters like an evil mattress salesman or a salty-sea man at Pier 39, an astute reader might ponder: how much of this material did Riordan come up with? The answer, unsurprising to Latin students who hear the original myths in class daily, is almost none. The ancient Greeks and Romans provided so many different stories, Riordan actually has to cut many

out in his novels. His first series, *Percy Jackson and The Olympians*, tells mainly Greek myths, from the twelve major gods and goddesses to the Titans to the Labyrinth. The sequel series, *The Heroes of Olympus*, delves into Roman stories, as well as their customs and culture. The Roman demigods, or children with one godly parent, are arranged into a legion, with praetors, an augur, and even their own, protected camp within the Berkeley Hills (entered through a secret fifth bore of the Caldecot, of course). Taking Latin at Miramonte only helps you appreciate these modernized ancient tales even more. Riordan’s current series is *The Trials of Apollo*, tells the story of the god of prophecy as he is stripped of his powers and must save the world from a triumvirate of Roman Emperors, while also defeating the five Oracles of antiquity. His stories are consistent best-sellers which tell stories of antiquity while spreading messages of friendship and fellowship, transcending any gap of time—even eons. And perhaps the closest we can get to being protagonists in one of his books is taking Latin.

## INTERVIEW WITH A LATIN I

Article by: Mia Trani

### Why did you decide to take Latin?

I decided to take Latin because I wanted to try something new. I took French both years at OIS and my Freshman year at Miramonte. I had heard from other students and friends that Latin was a really fun class and definitely worth taking, so I decided to try it.

### What do you think is the best academic benefit gained from taking Latin?

The best academic gain would be the connection between English and Latin. It’s really interesting (and helpful) to see how much Latin is involved in English. This connection helps me figure out complicated words in English by looking for Latin roots, as well as gain a deeper understanding of the history and meaning behind the words.

### What is your favorite memory from your time in Latin?

My favorite memory so far was the first time I could connect Latin to English. I thought it was really cool to see how much our language today is influenced by Latin.

### What is your favorite Latin Club tradition?

I really like the pasta feeds because it’s really fun to hangout with friends and meet new people.

### What is your favorite thing that you’ve learned about in class?

My favorite thing I’ve learned about so far would have to be mythology. I think it’s really interesting to learn about the gods and the origins of certain stories.



## ALUMNI

Madeleine  
Becker (Class of  
2015):

“I am minoring in  
classics (at USC)!

MHS Latin 100%

inspired me to  
do this because

it was one of  
the best parts of  
my high school  
experience.”



# LATIN II

Article by: Shannon Lipp

## **What can you say about Magister Davis or Magistra Muldowney?**

Magister Davis makes his class so fun! Latin I was such a good time and he got me so excited about Latin. Magistra is one of the nicest teachers I've ever had! She is so understanding and caring, and her Latin II class is really interesting.

## **What is your favorite Latin Club tradition?**

I love Latin pasta feeds! They are so much fun, and it is great to see everyone together, just hanging out. The environment is always so friendly and happy, and the food is delicious!

## **What do you think is the best academic benefit gained from taking Latin?**

I think the best academic benefit gained from taking Latin is vocabulary. Ever since I started taking Latin, I can recognize roots and stems that come from Latin.

## **What is your favorite memory from your time in Latin?**

So far, my favorite memories are from Ludi and State Convention because I made so many new friends and learned a lot of interesting history and fun facts. I also really liked them because it didn't matter what school you were from, or how old you were, everyone was so welcoming and friendly. It felt like everyone was just immediately friends there.

## **What is your favorite thing that you've learned about in class?**

My favorite thing I have learned about is mythology. I love hearing all the stories, and it is really interesting to learn about different gods and heroes.

## **Why did you decide to take Latin?**

I decided to take Latin because it sounded like it would be a fun and interesting class. I went to open house as an eighth grader, sort of still deciding whether to take Latin or Spanish. The vibe in the Latin room was super friendly and fun, and everyone was really nice. I also wanted to take Latin because I knew it would help me with a lot of things, like vocabulary.

# LATIN III

Article by: Matthew Carrington

## **What is your favorite memory from your time in Latin?**

My favorite memory from Latin is the first Ludi Novembres convention I took part in. At first I was a bit unsure how I would like the convention, but I was pleasantly surprised by how much fun I had in a single day. There were so many activities, games, events, sports, contests, and more, and I was able to meet other Latin students from different schools in the area. It was such a great first Latin event, and my convention experiences only keep getting better.

## **What is your favorite thing that you've learned about in class?**

While I love almost every part of Latin, my favorite thing I have learned was from the Roman material culture lab Magistra put together earlier last year. In one of the chemistry classrooms, there were several stations, all set up with different interactive lessons relating to Roman countryside life, economy, and agriculture. While learning about the diet of rural Romans, I was surprised to learn that Spain has been the world's top producer of olive oil since Roman times.

## **What can you say about Magister Davis and Magistra Muldowney?**

Magister Davis and Magistra Muldowney truly bring the heart and soul to the Latin program here at Miramonte. Extremely knowledgeable, energetic, and passionate, their instruction makes Latin an amazing course, not just a class. Magister and Magistra's engaging teaching styles create a fun and comfortable environment, and from them I have learned more about Latin and Roman culture than I ever thought I would.



## **What do you think is the best academic benefit from taking Latin?**

Through studying Latin, I have learned even more about the English language. Understanding how words of a Latin translation fit together have helped me immensely with grammar in English class, and learning Latin vocabulary has definitely improved my ability to infer the meaning of unknown English words based on their Latin derivatives. Learning a language that English is so closely related to has proven to be greatly beneficial to my success in all subjects.

## **What is your favorite Latin Club tradition?**

With so many fun events and celebrations, it is so hard to choose! Personally, my favorite Latin Club tradition is Augustus's birthday celebration. Complete with a historically accurate (and quite comical) Roman ritual, skit reenactment, costumes, and good food, this event never fails to entertain. The winter festivities of Saturnalia, however, are a close second.



# LATIN IV

Article by: Kiana Hu

## Why did you decide to take Latin?

I originally wanted to take Greek going into high school, but Latin was the closest option. In retrospect, it was the best decision I made.

## What do you think is the best academic benefit gained from taking Latin?

Latin has not only taught me a lot about English grammar but the cultural aspects are commonly referenced in other fields, such as medicine, law, and poetry.

## What is a misconception that people have that Miramonte Latin has proved wrong?

Latin is not dead! If we have over 200 members in a club that holds annual root beer float parties, pasta feeds, olive oil tasting, and numerous other events throughout the year, it is very much alive.

## What is your favorite thing that you've learned about in class?

Quippe vetor fatis.

## What can you say about Magister Davis and Magistra Mullooney?

Magister Davis has an unparalleled love and enthusiasm for the classics and Latin club. Magistra is not only a classics aficionado, she also teaches AP Euro (which requires an IMMENSE knowledge of history). Renaissance woman? Fulvia? The world may never know.

## What is your favorite Latin Club tradition?

Definitely the olive oil tasting. It's a tradition two years in the making, and I really hope it continues, because how many other people can claim to have attended an olive oil tasting party??

WANT  
TO GET  
INVOLVED  
IN MHS  
LATIN CLUB?

Contact Magister  
Davis, Magistra  
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# THE 5 BEST LATIN EVENTS

## 1. CONVENTION

The most coveted and exciting weekend of the school year for MHS Latin students is definitely State Convention. Almost all of our students attend this two-day event where we compete in spirit contests, sports, chariot races, academic tests, Certamen, talent shows, art contests, and so much more! With schools from all over the state, it is truly so much fun to meet other Latin students and show the glory of the MHS Latin Club. Fun Fact: Miramonte Latin Club is the reigning State Champion for the sixth year in a row! We are also excited to be hosting State Convention this year on March 29 and 30!

## 2. AUGUSTUS'S BIRTHDAY

An in-class event, Augustus's birthday is a favorite event for many students. On this day, all Latin students walk into their respective periods greeted with streamers, balloons, cookies, and togas. To celebrate the birthday of the first Roman emperor, MHS Latin performs a play in class, sings songs, and eats plenty of treats.

## 3. LUDI

One of two day-long Latin events in the school year, Ludi is a smaller and less competitive version of the annual spring State Convention. Normally held in October or November, Ludi is an excellent opportunity for students to get involved. Literally translating to "game", Ludi is a day filled with sports, academic tests, Certamen, costume contests, and crafts for all Latin levels. Being one day shorter than the spring convention, Ludi is a fantastic time for students to get a taste for what Latin conventions are all about.

## 4. PASTA FEED

To start off the year, MHS Latin Club hosts an annual pasta feed to show Latin spirit. This is the first event of the year and all members of Latin Club are welcome. Over 90% of members come and enjoy the provided lasagna, salad, cookies, other dessert goods, and drinks. On the day of the pasta feed, one can find the lawn outside of the Latin room filled with Latin students conversing about their summers and excitement for the new year.

## 5. END OF THE YEAR BANQUET

Typically held at the end of May, the end of the year Latin Banquet is everyone's favorite. With unique themes (such as Rome on the Range) and catered food, families of the MHS Latin community come together to celebrate and thank those who made the year special. Awards are presented to takers of the National Latin Exam, initiation occurs for the new Latin Club officers for the next year, seniors are commemorated, and we even have live music played by Latin students!



# WHAT DO MIRAMONTE LATIN ALUMNI HAVE TO SAY?

## CATHERINE DE LUNA

“I am double majoring in Classics and Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, so Latin has so far been an integral part of my college education. Many universities have a fairly small Classics department, and thus are able to provide their students with a lot of unique classes and opportunities. Miramonte fostered my love of Latin and prepared me incredibly successfully to be able to take Latin at the college level. I highly recommend students continue their study of Latin.”

## FATIMA HASANAIN

“In college, no matter what your major is, you have to write. The grammar you learn in Latin enhances your English skills and sets you apart from your peers. I am also a history major, and no matter what I am studying - Latin American, US, or Armenian - there are direct references to Ancient Roman literature and culture that we studied in Latin class at Miramonte.”

