

"Lingua Latina Est Vita"

THE CONSUL

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Miramonte High School

Welcome to MHS Latin!

Salvete Amici! The Miramonte Latin Club is the largest and oldest club on campus. We strive to promote Latin and the Classics in a fun, memorable and educational manner. Our parent organization, the Junior Classical League (JCL) has been in existence since 1936 and is over 50,000 members strong. "The purpose of this organization shall be to promote a more thorough knowledge of Classical life, history, and literature; to impart a better understanding of the practical and cultural value of the Classics; to interest other students in the Classical Languages, literature, government, laws, and arts; and, as members of this organization, to always strive to promote friendship and fellowship among students of the classics."

The culmination of four years of Latin is translating Virgil's *The Aeneid* and taking the AP exam in May. We encourage all members of the community to support Miramonte's growing Latin Club and to visit the website for JCL

<http://www.njcl.org>. Gratias tibi agimus!



Famous People Who Have Taken Latin

- I. Mark Zuckerberg
- II. Winston Churchill
- III. President Bill Clinton
- IV. Thomas Jefferson
- V. Vince Lombardi
- VI. Chris Martin (Coldplay)
- VII. Isaac Newton
- VIII. J.K. Rowling
- IX. William Shakespeare
- X. J.R.R. Tolkein

THE CONSUL



Dear OIS parents,

As you help your child pick courses for their first year at Miramonte High School, we encourage you to seriously consider Latin. The Latin program's strong sense of community, and the practicality of the language, will serve your children as scholars, citizens, and leaders. Every year Latin students become valedictorians, are recognized by the National Merit Scholarship program, and gain admission to top colleges. Whether your child wants to be a doctor, lawyer, architect or a writer, knowledge of the ancient world will give them an edge in today's society. Statistically, Latin is extremely beneficial, especially when it comes to standardized testing. In 2007, students who took Latin scored an average of 678 on the verbal portion of the regular SAT, while French and Spanish students who took the SAT IIs for their respective languages scored about 40 or more points lower on average.

Matt Davis and Nick Carpenter, the two Latin teachers, have mentored and inspired many students. Each latin teacher genuinely cares about the students and is passionate about their subject. We students cannot emphasize enough how much the Miramonte Latin program has done for us. Latin has enabled us to grow socially and intellectually, and will continue to be a solid foundation for us no matter what we choose to pursue in our future. At the beginning of every class, Latin students recite Horace's "Exegi Monumentum", which translates : "I have built a monument more lasting than bronze." Latin is that monument. It elevates those who learn it, and sticks with them for a lifetime. - **MHS Latin Club**

"No doubt some people will persist in questioning the usefulness of Latin. For these skeptics I have a two word answer: Mark Zuckerberg... He regards Latin as one of the keys to his success."

- *The Spectator*

Students who take Latin scored an average of 678 on the verbal portion of the SAT.

Students in other languages on average scored 40 points lower.

Nine Reasons to Take Latin

THE TEACHERS

Mr. Davis and Mr. Carpenter, are the dynamic duo of the Miramonte Latin Program. Both teachers are excellent story tellers and well versed in history, mythology and humorous anecdotes. “The teachers are amazing, Mr. Davis is the shining star of my life. He loves Latin and connects with his students. You’re never bored.”

-David Allen

MEET NEW FRIENDS

The “Latin buddy” system gives students the chance to connect with old friends and make new ones. Other Latin traditions, such as the “cards of fun” and Augustus’ birthday, combined with an interactive and positive classroom environment, promote camaraderie.

COMMUNITY

Latin stands out as a class with strong community. The Latin Club, hosts pasta feeds, movie nights, and car washes in addition to an end of the year banquet. Each year we also attend Latin conventions sponsored by the California Junior Classical League. Club activities give students from all grades a chance to bond.

MORE SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

Learning about declensions and conjugations will improve your grammar. Studying Latin vocabulary will increase your English knowledge. Latin will make you a better writer and a better speaker. Latin will give you the edge in your classes and life.

CULTURE

Latin is so rich with stories. On your very first day as a Latin student, you will hear the story of the birth of Venus. The next day about Roman roads and how the Romans have shaped our world. The ancient world and Latin is the foundation for the world. Latin will help you excel in all other subjects.

LIFE LESSONS

Latin is everywhere, and learning it will benefit you no matter what career path you choose. From discussions on Roman virtues and how the ancients approached life, in Latin we learn life lessons that will help you in the future.

CREATIVITY

Joining the Latin community will give you the opportunity to expand creatively as well as academically. Each semester we work on creative projects in which we explore Latin and the ancient world. We have made replicas of Roman shields, models and artwork. Recently, a student constructed a giant Trojan Horse that students can actually fit inside.

COOL GEAR

Students in Latin Club receive a T-shirt with a cool design and JCL pencils.

LINGUA LATINA EST VITA!

Latin is Life!



“You learn more about English in Latin than you do in English.”
-Sean McFeely

“Where else can you shoot catapults?”
-Robbie Fluegge



Inside Pompeii

by Lindsay Blore

Surely everyone has heard of the tragedy of Pompeii—a Roman city that, along with neighboring Herculaneum, fell victim to the catastrophic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. The volcano erupted on a summer morning in 79 AD, and continued its wrath for two whole days, covering the helpless towns and their inhabitants with 4 to 6 meters of ash, pumice, and rubble. Lost for nearly 1,600 years, Pompeii was accidentally rediscovered in 1599, and, since then, extensive and meticulous excavation has revealed a remarkable insight into the daily lives of the ancient citizens. I had heard the story as well, and had thought little of the historical incident before visiting the ruins of Pompeii this last summer. Upon entering the city itself, we had to make our way up an inclining and narrow stone-set path, complete with the remains of elevated sidewalks and large stone dividers spaced evenly in the middle of the lane, which provided a sort of stepping stone

for pedestrians, while at the same time designating a type of track for the wheels of horse-drawn wagons to follow. The roads in Pompeii, as in most Roman towns, are straight, and intersect each other regularly at perpendicular angles. The stone buildings were also straight and angular, although the roofs of most structures were missing in jagged chunks, from the force of the eruption and weight of the ash. As still, quiet, and “ghost-town-like” this section of Pompeii seemed to me in the baking sun, evidence of everyday life in the ancient days of Pompeii scattered the terrain. Passing by the numerous railed-off structures, I caught glimpses of what used to be bedrooms and kitchens, gardens and the community forum—all reduced to dusty remnants and half-structures.

“You will make life long friends and become part of a great community at Miramonte High School!”

-Nora Ross

CHECK OUT
THE WEBSITE
AT:
[http://tinyurl.com/
mhslatinclub](http://tinyurl.com/mhslatinclub)

Latin Convention

by Rachel Huang

This is a tale of Glory. Fated for greatness, the illustrious Miramonte Latin club has gone to battle yearly with its many opponents (aka Woodbridge High School) on the greatest battlefield known to the World: the California Junior Classical League state convention. Here artists, athletes, entertainers, interpretive dancers, ball dodgers, pie eaters, and certamen masters come to fight in the semimetaphorical death for glory, honor, perhaps a dancing giraffe, and a year's worth of bragging rights, all while wearing amazingly fashionable and matching tee-shirts. Miramonte has a very distinctive reputation to live up to. In 2009, at the 54th Convention held at the Harker School, Miramonte, for the first time in many years, defeated their Goliath adversaries, Woodbridge High School. Green and white reigned supreme that year. And although last year Woodbridge regained their title (and Miramonte slipping back to 2nd best), Miramonte had home field advantage for 2011, and we dominated at home with victories in chariot races, academics, art, sporting fields, and even in the pool.

But rivalry aside, the state convention really is one of the greatest and most fun things you will do in high school. Be it the bus ride down there, the workshops, or the competitions, there will be something there for you to do. And you'll be surrounded by your friends (hopefully ALL your friends

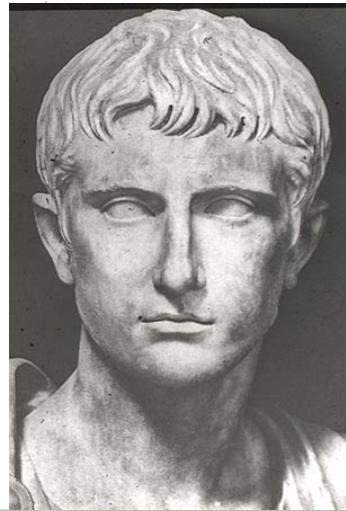
from Latin) for an entire weekend nearly nonstop. There's really no downside to this. There are SO many events and competitions. Everything ranging from music to art, from sports to costume contests, from the banquet to the general assembly, from battle of the bands to anything plain entertainment! (That's Entertainment is a competition where students can perform five-minute sketches. It's so easy to participate in and fun to watch!) There's a lot to do. Are you interested in the ancient world? Join a Victoria Alae ("wings of victory") group and help students ace written exams at the convention. Are you super talented at any instrument? Bring it. Can you memorize Latin well? Try the Oratory. Amazing interpretive dancer? That's Entertainment. Side note: awards won at Latin Conventions can really fill up the "Awards" section of your college application. High school is the highlight of many people's lives, the height of their enjoyment of life. Well, those people are only half right. It is the Latin convention that is the most memorable thing to happen during high school. So join Latin, come to convention, compete in contests, win glory, have fun with friends, and find your inner Roman at the banquet.

2009 & 2011
CJCL STATE
CHAMPIONS



"You will earn honor and glory at the Latin Convention."
-Clark Pang





Augustus' Birthday

by Margot and Marina Mai

On the 23rd of September, upon entering Mr. Davis's classroom, Latin students find themselves in a room transformed with streamers, banners, balloons and a festive atmosphere. Though most students are eagerly drawn to the platters piled high with brownies, cookies and frosted cakes, until the jubilant ceremony has been approved by the almighty and illustrious Olympians, none may partake in the festivities. After the room is sanctified as a temple, the class fervently watches the sky for a bird of extraordinary plumage. Satisfied with the brief and shaky appearance of a multicolored cockatrice whizzing through the air, the ritual-loving Latin students call for blood! With an exchange of money for the services of a priest, gut gazer, head bopper, cow holder, etc, a "holy" cow (laughter appreciated) is led to the altar, where it is bashed on the head with a mallet resembling a stapler. Unfortunately, the cow is often hit with too much

force and seemingly visible flecks of brain are splattered across the classroom. To add to the carnage, the cow is then slit open with a blade, at which point, if the cow were not a stuffed animal, blood would pool upon the ground. Once the cow has been deemed healthy and anatomically normal, the gods are appeased and students make a dash for the baked goods. They are promptly checked with cries of "NO!" from the magistri -the revelers must first partake in a few minutes of classical entertainment. Thus a heavily abridged version of the story of Divus Augustus and his rise to power is performed by the students. A sincere thanks goes out to the valiant actors and actresses who spared the general populace the embarrassment of having to sword fight to "O Fortuna." It is a magnificent event and one you will look forward to if you take Latin.

"Mr. Davis is a beast, and Latin culture is fascinating."
-Guy Raber

Did you know that Augustus established the Roman Empire and his favorite saying was "Festina lente!" - Make hast slowly!



Awesome Latin Events That Will Rock Your Socks!

Movie Night: Movie Night is pretty self-explanatory. Once a year, the Latin club rents out the school theater, and watches the movie chosen by the majority of the students. Past flicks included Zoolander and Gladiator. It's a fun way to get out on a weekday night with a legitimate excuse, and hang with your friends, even if they aren't in Latin.

The Ides of March: How many chances do you get to celebrate a death day like it's a party? Well in Latin, every year. Much like Augustus' birthday, we celebrate March 15, the death of Caesar. With food, singing, and a trip up to grassy knoll, it's definitely an interesting way to celebrate the dead.

Pasta Feeds: Latin Club members enjoy a pasta feed during lunch on special occasion during the year. Students are treated to garlic bread, pasta, lasagna, as well as refreshments. Latin kids love the opportunity to enjoy lunch with Latin buddies and feast on a school day.

End of the Year

Banquet: Students work hard all year long and celebrate during the joyous Latin Banquet. At the banquet students are rewarded with academic rewards, served food-ancient Roman style, and entertained.

Ludi: Wake up in the morning feeling like J. Caesar. Grab my toga out the door about to hit this school. Before I leave brush my teeth with a bottle of mouthwash, cause when I leave for the day I will *BE* coming back. Basically, what I'm trying to convey is that Ludi is exactly like a Kesha music video; non-stop fun and slightly intoxicating. With the heavy beat of the Junior Classical League anthem to pump us up, we leave the opening ceremonies in anticipation of a day filled with face paint, Quidditch, and bouncy houses, and of course the academic tests.



Did you know that Ides of March is the 15th while the Ides of February is the 13th?



Gain a Deeper Understanding of Harry Potter

The *Harry Potter* books are simply bursting with references to Latin and Roman and Greek mythology. The following is a list of spells and characters that possess names and/or qualities with classical origins:

Accio: bring an object to the spell-caster. From the Latin word *accio* (I call, summon)

Argus Filch: Hogwarts caretaker In Mythology, Argus was a watchman who had 100 eyes all over his body.

Confundo: causes victim to become befuddled. From the Latin word *confundo* (I pour together, mingle, mix)

Crucio: causes victim to feel terrible pain. From the Latin word *crucio* (I torture)

Dedalus Diggle: an enthusiastic wizard. Daedalus built the labyrinth for the Minotaur (a half man, half bull creature).

Densaugeo: causes teeth of victim to grow extremely fast. From the Latin words *dens* (tooth) and *augeo* (I increase)

Evanesco: causes objects to vanish. From the Latin word *evanescere* (to vanish)

Expecto Patronum: used to fight off Dementors. From the Latin word *exspecto* (I await) and *patronus* (protector)

Expelliarmus: used to disarm another wizard. From the Latin word *expello* (I drive out, eject, expel) and *arma* (weapons)

Fluffy: Hagrid's three-headed dog Ceberus, the three-headed dog of the underworld, could be lured to sleep by music like Fluffy.

Hermione Granger: Harry's bookish friend. Hermione was the daughter of Helen of Troy and King Menelaus of Sparta.

Legilimens: lets spell casters see thoughts, memories, and emotions of victims. From the Latin words *lego* (I read, choose) and *mens* (mind)

Levicorpus: causes victim to hang upside down. From the Latin words *levo* (to lift up) and *corpus* (body)

Minerva McGonagall: head of Gryffindor House and Transfigurations professor. Minerva was the Roman goddess of war and wisdom.

Obliviate: causes the victim to lose memory. From the Latin Word *oblivium* (forgetfulness)

Pomona Sprout: Herbology professor Pomona was the Roman goddess of orchards, gardens, and trees.

Prior Incantato: produces the echo of a wand's last spell. From the Latin words *prior* (former) and *cano* (I sing)

Protego: shields spell-caster from curses, hexes, and jinxes, and makes them rebound on the attacker. From the Latin word *protego* (I protect)

Remus Lupin: a friend of Harry's father. Remus was the twin brother of Romulus, the founder of Rome. Lupus is the Latin word for 'wolf'.

Rictusempra: makes the victim feel as if he or she is being tickled. From the latin words *rictus* (mouth opened wide) and *semper* (always)

Sectumsempra: wounds victim. From the Latin words *seco* (I cut) and *semper* (always)

Severus Snape: head of Slytherin House and Potions professor Severus means 'stern' in Latin

Stupefy: makes the target unconscious. From the Latin word *stupeficio* (I make stupid)

