

The Consul

Open House Issue -- Published: January MMXX A.D.

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Miramonte Latin Club - Special Edition

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Miramonte Latin Club

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Clockwise from top left: 1. Miramonte Latin Club, led by Spirit Leaders, practice their spirit chants at this year's Ludi convention hosted by Menlo School. 2. Over the summer, Miramonte Latin participated in Orinda's Independence Day Parade! Students had lots of fun dressing up in red, white, and blue. 3. Latin Club enjoys a delicious pasta feed where Miramonte students across all levels of Latin were able to get to know one-another.

Welcome to MHS Latin

Article by: Athena Davis

Salvete amici! Hello friends and welcome to Miramonte Latin! We are a vibrant, diverse community that comes together around the study of the classical world. From translating the splendid works of Roman poet Catullus or reciting Horace's iconic "Exegi", Miramonte Latin strives to make the works of the ancients accessible and applicable to modern readers. Far from a drill and kill language class, Latin is heavily collaborative, engaging, and modern in approach. Latin 1's use

Duolingo to supplement their in-class learning, while Latin 3's have been developing their spoken Latin skills. Miramonte Latin Club is another way Latin is used to build a powerful community and foster learning. From our Saturnalia Party (Roman Christmas) to lectures on powerful female leaders of the ancient world from Magistra Mullowney, Latin Club is a group of over 200 students (the 5th largest Latin Club in the nation), that represents all grades, interests, and backgrounds at Miramonte. Our teachers, Magister Davis and Magistra Mullowney, foster a positive, engaging classroom environment, and prioritize accessibility in their curriculum. Latin is truly for everyone, whether you are an athlete, artist, academic, or all three. So, once again, welcome to Miramonte Latin, we can't wait for you to join our community!

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Latin: Knowledge That Stands the Test of Time

Article by: Xander Deanhardt

In addition to being a fun experience, the things you learn in a class hopefully will stay with you and prove useful throughout your life. With most languages, the lasting benefit of learning them is easy to see; you know a language that you can use to talk to people. Outside of the tightly knit community open to everybody who signs up for Latin, the language does not have the same direct conversational application of other languages. Instead, the lessons learned in the Latin classroom are much more versatile. At the root of it all is the fact that Latin is the root of it all: today's prevalent languages, modern-day entertainment, medical terminology, and plenty more.

A multitude of languages, to varying degrees, use Latin as their base. English for example, while having some Germanic influence, uses Latin roots for 60% of its terminology. This number rises to 90% for terms used in Science and Technology, making Latin near-essential for any student pursuing a medical career. Then come the romance languages, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian, and Romanian, which are influenced by Latin and Latin alone. Because these languages are so heavily based on Latin, learning Latin makes learning any of these languages significantly easier to do at any given

point. Latin doesn't allow you to have a conversation in one language. It puts you mere steps away from being able to converse in 5.

That level of choice and variety makes Latin unique. And Latin provides that same level of choice in another way, a noticeable improvement in SAT scores. A study conducted by the Educational Testing Service in 2012 found that when SAT takers were divided up by what language they were studying, the ones taking Latin performed the best. Since then, people have found reasons for why that is. The vocabulary learned in Latin is easily transferable to the English portion of the SAT. Furthermore, the unique style that translations are done in Latin Class develops critical thinking skills that translate almost perfectly to the SAT's writing section. All of this is important because as things are, SAT scores are important for colleges, which ultimately play a big role in how somebody's future might end up. A better SAT score can mean more choices for college, which leads to more choices in life.

While Latin is rooted in the past, the things learned in the Latin classroom, more so than any other classroom, will provide you with the tools to choose your future.

Reasons to Take Latin

- Opportunity to join a welcoming and friendly community on campus
- Improve your vocabulary and grammar skills
- Experience positive and engaging classroom environments
- Attend Latin conventions where you will win glory and make new friends



Interview with a Latin I

Interviewee: Jessica Milmoe

Why did you decide to take Latin?

I took latin because I had heard about how amazing the program was and the amazing community it created.

What is your favorite part about the class so far?

My favorite part of the class is the community and mythology. :)

What are you excited about in Latin this year?

I'm excited for becoming more involved in the community and going to the convention in the spring.



Latin II

Interviewee: Willy Hodder

Why did you decide to take Latin?

I decided to take Latin because my brother took it and my mom thought it wasn't a good idea for me to be in her French class.

What is your favorite memory from your time in Latin?

My favorite memory was definitely watching the bee movie at convention.

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



The best academic benefit is that it has helped me a lot with my English grammar.

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

I really like learning about what daily life was like in ancient Rome.

What is your favorite Latin Club tradition?

My favorite Latin Club tradition is celebrating Augustus's birthday.



Latin III

Interviewee: Nejla Ackdoe-Pagey

What is your favorite memory from your time in Latin?

Definitely going to 2019 Nationals! It was such an amazing experience to get awarded Top 5 Best Latin Club Publication in the Nation, but it was also a great way to make new friends from California and other states!

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

It's an incredible foundational class for so many different subjects. From English to biology to other languages, you can apply nearly everything you've learned about in Latin to your daily life and studies.



Latin IV

Interviewee: Mathew 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 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 has 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 thing that you have 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

What is your favorite thing that you have learned about in class?

I always like learning about mythological stories such as "Adonis and the Rose" and "Arachne."

What can you say about Magister Davis and Magistra Mullowney?

BEST TEACHERS ON CAMPUS! They put so much heart into everything they teach and it's clear that they love what they do. It makes all of the students love what they're teaching us about and it's never a dull moment in their classes!

What is your favorite Latin Club tradition?

"Quote of the day" at the beginning of class.

Magistra put together earlier this 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 Mullowney?

Magister Davis and Magistra Mullowney 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 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.

The 4 Best Latin Club Events at MHS

1. 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 Latin classes 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.



2. 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 MHS 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.

3. Saturnalia

MHS Latin club hosts their very own Saturnalia festival every December before winter break. Latin students love the modern spin on this classic Roman festival, filled with delicious pizza and treats, gambling, holiday card making, and bird auguries! Students enjoy coming together during the holiday season as a Latin community to celebrate the language and culture we study.



4. End of the Year Banquet

Typically held at the end of May, the End of the Year 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!

Latin Conventions

Article by: Cara Holden

Where can you win an academic award, compete in a basketball tournament, participate in community service, hear from experts and professors, attend a dance, and more, all in a day or two? The answer to this seemingly complex riddle is simple: a Latin convention. At conventions, Latin students from many different areas join together at one location to compete in academics, arts, and athletics for their school, spend time with peers, and enjoy participating in activities relating to the world of ancient Greece and Rome. Some notable events include Certamen, Latin quiz bowl, spirit competitions, chariot racing, banquets, general assemblies, board elections, and more.

There are three annual conventions that Miramonte Latin students have the opportunity to attend: Ludi Novembres/Octobres, State Convention, and National Convention. Ludi and State Convention are put on by the California Junior Classical League (CAJCL), a middle and high school organization of Greek and Latin students in California. Ludi, which takes place in the fall, is a smaller, single-day version of State Convention that only includes students in Northern California. This convention is often hosted in the Bay Area, and we are excited to be hosting Ludi at Miramonte next school year! State Convention, the longer and larger of the two, occurs for two days in the spring and is open to all Latin students in California.

The National Latin Convention is put on in the summer by the National Junior Classical League (NJCL), an organization of middle and high school Latin and Greek students across the United States and several other countries. Miramonte sends about ten to fifteen students to this large convention, which takes place for five days on a college campus in a different state every year. These students compete as part of the California delegation and have even more competitions, activities, and food available to participate in than state-level conventions. Students who attend National Convention not only get to meet other classics students from California, but Latin and Greek students from all over. In fact, spending time with friends is often most students' favorite memory from conventions.



What Do Miramonte Alumni Have to Say?

“You learn more about English in Latin than you do in English.” - **Sean McFeely** (class of 2015)

“I began Latin thinking the only thing it would give me was an improved vocabulary, or the same celebration of European civilizations I was growing sick of. In actuality, Latin has given me unbounded joy and deeply enriching knowledge.” - **Zahra Hasanain** (class of 2018)

“The value Latin brings is not in utility, but in historical awareness and personal fulfillment. No poetry you read in Spanish class will speak to you like Catullus will, and no lesson in French will teach you as much about human nature as Vergil will.” - **Zachary Weiner** (class of 2018)

Want to get involved with MHS Latin Club?

Contact **Magister Davis, Magistra Mullowney, or Athena Davis** for more information:

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