



IMPORTANCE OF LATIN

As part of the classical curriculum, Saint Patrick School ensures to prioritize educating the whole student. There are three main reasons to study Latin.



VOCABULARY

Latin gives the student a mastery of academic vocabulary. One of the chief reasons students struggle in advanced high school and college subjects is unfamiliar and complex vocabulary. Most multi-syllabic English words are derived from Latin. (in fact 75% of the English language is derived from Latin). A mastery of Latin enables the student to more easily understand the more technical academic vocabulary of both the sciences and the humanities. Studies show that students who learn Latin score higher on standardized test.



GRAMMAR

Latin teaches grammar better than the study of English grammar. It is hard to analyze the grammar of a language you already speak and write in, particularly a language so unstructured as English. Latin is much more highly structured, since they are inflected, meaning that the grammar of their nouns and adjectives is as explicit as verbs in modern languages. The nouns and adjectives display their function through their endings, enabling the student to see the grammar of words and sentences in a way that is impossible in English and most other modern languages.



CRITICAL THINKING

Latin is the best critical thinking skills subject on the language side. The reason math and science are seen as being great critical thinking subjects is that they are objective, structured, and systematic. Language, on the other hand, is seen as subjective and imprecise. However, the highly structured nature of Latin grammar brings order. Latin grammar is both more complex than English and less imprecise, enabling the student to learn the two fundamental thinking skills, analysis and synthesis, in a much cleaner and less frustrating way.

OUR WHY

One of the biggest differences between a classical curriculum and the modern industrial approach is the study of Latin. In fact, up until the mid-20th century, Latin was a required subject in most of our nation's public schools. This had little to do with The Mass being done in Latin back before Vatican II. It has everything to do with the way a child's mind develops.

